·TALKING·
WITH·GOD

A Manual of Prayers
for All Occasions

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Talking with God

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EDITED BY

ALFRED FRANKLIN SMITH

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"Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees."
—WILLIAM COWPER.

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INTRODUCTION

THE language of prayer is not easy, except in crisis or rapture. For that reason the longing heart makes its appeal as did James Montgomery in the words:

"O Thou, by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
The path of prayer thyself hast trod:
Lord, teach us how to pray."

The disciples themselves felt their insufficiency in forming their petitions and said to the Master, "Lord, teach us to pray as John also taught his disciples."

For young people and others who have need of assistance in their private devotions and in their efforts in meetings to speak aloud their praises and supplications, this little book has been arranged. Those who have contributed to its contents are widely related. They belong to many denominations. Some of them are among the ablest ministers in the United States and Canada; others are young Christians with deep earnestness and therefore know how to touch the eager minds of other young people. Rabbis, whose race has "a genius for religion" and long ago wrote the Psalms, have enriched this collection of prayers.

"Men ought always to pray," and they do in fact evermore feel the need of prayer. No life is entirely prayerless; at the same time few lives are sufficiently prayerful. The spirit of prayer requires cultivation.

Frequently, in endeavoring to approach God, bewildered but longing hearts search for ideas and words. The vast realm of the soul overwhelms them, and they can only keep silence. When in their passion they would cry out they know not how to speak.

At such a time, "TALKING WITH GOD" will be a strong and sweet companion.

ALFRED FRANKLIN SMITH.

TALKING WITH GOD

PRAYER FOR PARDON

OUR God and Father, we come to Thee. Helpless, be Thou our strength; sinful, be Thou our surety; dull in heart and conscience, do Thou quicken and bless.

Grant us pardon. Our sins are many, and our sinfulness deeper still. We have desired wrong and done wrong; but more fearful than anything that has found expression in word and deed is our capacity for evil. Forgive us, our God. Change us in nature. Down to the depths of our being may Thy Spirit penetrate, making us wholly new. Replenish by the showers of Thy grace the sources of moral strength. Purify us in thought and feeling. Set us free from every evil habit and custom and in the liberty which is Thy choice for men let us walk with Thee.

Grant us power with Thee in prayer as we plead for men, and power with men as we plead for Thee. Lead us into a fuller realization of what Thou hast done and art doing in us, and so prepare us to testify to the marvels of Thy grace. Hasten, Lord Jesus, the coming of the reign of love, and to Thee who alone art worthy, shall all glory be given. *Amen.*

GEORGE C. PIDGEON,
BLOOR STREET UNITED CHURCH
Toronto, Canada

PRAYER FOR CLEANSING AND HELP

ALMIGHTY God, in whom we live and move and have our being; whose Blessed Son manifested to us Thy boundless love and compassion; we pray Thee, forgive us our sins, and let Thy Holy Spirit enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and purify our hearts.

In the time of prosperity sanctify our joy, and in the day of trouble consecrate our sorrow. Be near to help us when temptation threatens, and be Thou our Light when we wander in the shadows of distrust.

Grant us the faith that never falters, the hope that never fails, and the love that sees the Divine King in his beauty and goes forth in help and blessing to all the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

THOMAS F. GAILOR
BISHOP, PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Memphis, Tenn.

TURN US, O GOD

O GOD our Father, in whom we live and move and have our being; Thou art never far from us; but at times Thou dost seem to us dim and distant and shadowy, because we have turned away from Thee, or followed afar off, or lost the light of Thy countenance amid the clouds of our sin or doubt. Turn us, O God, and cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. May the Sun of Righteousness arise, dispelling all clouds and mists that dim our vision, and revealing to us not alone Thy greatness and Thy glory, but Thy nearness and Thy love; that, drawing near to Thee, we may enter into the full joy of Thy fellowship and find therein that strength and peace and joy that shall enable us to live in Thy light and walk in Thy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WILLIAM PIERSON MERRILL
BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New York City

SECRET OF AVAILING PRAYER

LORD, teach us to pray, as Thou didst teach disciples long ago. Grant that we may learn so well the secrets of availing prayer that we, like them, may feel Thy presence constantly and know Thy power.

Teach us in our praying, gracious Lord, to put Thy kingdom first, and to seek Thy will before our own, trusting Thee to meet our needs.

Reign, O Christ, within our hearts, and by Thy pure presence keep them clean. Make our lips the channels of Thy grace and truth. May we speak no word that will hurt another, but ever remember that Thou hast called us to be Thy witnesses.

Teach us Thy wondrous secret of finding life by losing it in loving service.

In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

HENRY WADE DUBOSE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Spartanburg, S. C.

THE MORNING AND THE TASK

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the morning of life, for the fresh dew on the grass, the singing of the birds, and the sweet clean air that pervades all the world about us; and we thank Thee too for golden youth, for manhood's morning, and the breaking of womanhood's day; for the fresh awakening of life within us and the great world throbbing with possibilities calling to our untried powers.

Make us useful to-day in doing high-class work in setting standards that are clean and wholesome and white, and when the day has closed call us again by Thy voice to our homes—to parents and firesides with hands unsoiled and our faith in Thy tender care unmoved and unmovable. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

WILLIAM RUSSELL OWEN
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Columbus, Ga.

JUST FOR TO-DAY

DEAR Father, I would talk with Thee to-day about my life. Thou knowest the mistakes I make, and all my willful wanderings. Forgive me, I pray Thee, and help me to try again.

Teach me how to increase my faith in Thee and in the future of Thy kingdom on earth. Likewise in my fellow man, lest I become critical, cynical, and selfish: And also in myself and in all Thy plans for my life and service:

Teach me the mood of hope. Keep me from pessimism and cowardice, from daily despair and grouchiness, and from forgetfulness of my God—and His might:

Teach me how to love those around me: I would be true to my convictions and yet kind, just and yet generous, mindful of the truth and yet ever merciful. Let me show Thy spirit of love in every relation of life:

And when the shadows lengthen and the evening falls, let me look back upon a day devoted to loving deeds—yea, upon a life of joyous service: In Jesus' name and for His sake. *Amen.*

ERNEST BOURNER ALLEN
PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Oak Park, Ill.

PROVISIONS OF GRACE

DEAR Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts to Thee because Thou art great and good. Thou art a mighty Helper—a beneficent Friend. We are entranced by Thy gentle wooings and profited even by Thy harshest warnings. We are overwhelmed by Thy condescension and overawed by Thy majesty. We rejoice that Thou dost enable us to go forth to our tasks radiant and strong and hopeful. Thou dost inspire our hearts and illumine our minds. Thou hast made it possible for us to disarm our difficulties and to triumph over our foes. Thou hast provided grace for all of our trials and Thou dost vouchsafe wisdom for our most taxing problems. Continue to steady us by lofty ideals and hold us to high motivation. Use us in needy fields and make us worthy of Thy glorious crowning. Guide us by day and safeguard us by night, and ultimately take us home with Thee. We humbly beseech Thee, in the name of Jesus our Saviour and King. *Amen.*

J. B. PARSONS
SUPERINTENDENT, CHURCH OF UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
Indianapolis, Ind.

A GOOD DAY IN CHRIST

GOD of the measureless starry spaces, God of ocean and mountain and lake and forest and stream, God of the pure lilies and the singing birds, God in our hearts and consciences, we call Thee Father, the name that Jesus has taught us to use when we talk with Thee.

Help us to live to-day so that the evening hour shall find us unashamed.

May our religion be so real, so beautifully practical, that every life we touch shall be helped Godward.

Enable us to do our work day by day with a stern sense of accountability to the Master, but without fear.

In face of the world's sin and suffering and stupendous need, may we tread bravely the way of sacrifice and do our best, following faithfully Him who bore the cross.

We long for more of the Christ spirit, that our vision shall be clearer, our faith stronger, our courage steadier, our words kindlier, our deeds lovelier. Our prayer is in His name. *Amen.*

W. E. McCULLOCH
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Los Angeles, Calif.

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up our hearts unto Thee who art the Giver of every good and perfect gift. We pray that we may be taken under Thy guidance, knowing that, if we but yield ourselves to the ordering of Thy divine will, all things will work together for our good. We acknowledge that it is when we leave Thee that we go astray, when we forget Thee that we become bewildered and confused, when we fail to look to Thee for strength that we become overborne by the burdens and difficulties of our daily life. We would return to Thee and open our minds and souls to Thine encompassing life and love. Accept us, poor, needy creatures that we are, and fill our hearts with Thine abundant strength. Fit us for the life that lies before us. Help us to fight manfully, to endure bravely, to be confident in time of perplexity, trustful in hours of darkness. Cleanse our souls from all unworthiness, deliver us from all bitterness and lack of charity, and enable us in things both great and small to follow in the footsteps of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In all our duties, grant us Thy help; in all our dangers, Thy protection; in all our uncertainties, Thy counsel; in all our sorrows, Thy peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

RAYMOND CALKINS
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Cambridge, Mass.

PRAYER FOR LIFE-WORK GUIDANCE

Inspired by a letter from a young woman, a freshman in Goucher College, Baltimore, who wrote me of her perplexity and uncertainty regarding her life work, saying, "I wish I were as settled about what I ought to do as Elizabeth, my roommate."

I AM concerned, Heavenly Father, about my calling and work in the world. There are certain things I love to do. I love to work among the sick. It is no trial whatever for me to move through the wards and rooms of a hospital. Medicine, nursing, and all activities connected with healing have a fascination for me. I feel there is a need for Christian nurses. Not only a need, but a real opportunity for growth and usefulness. But I am not certain that I should decide on a course of action solely on the ground of loving the work. Then there are other fields that appeal to me. Lord, I come to Thee for guidance and help. Thou knowest that I desire to make my life count. I want, above all else, to be of service. I pray for Thy divine direction, that as early as possible I may decide, that all my plans and preparation may tend to the chosen end. In Thy name, my Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

BRUCE S. WRIGHT
ASBURY-DELAWARE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Buffalo, N. Y.

THE NEW DAY

O LORD our God, with the dawning of another day our hearts are lifted up to Thee in thankful acknowledgment of thy tender care. While we have slept, the eye that never slumbers nor sleeps has been kept open toward our resting place. As we glance backward to this evidence of thy love we say, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me."

This new day brings new opportunities for service, and we ask for keenness of vision and warmth of heart that these privileges may not pass unseen and unused. Make us sensitive to the atmosphere of thy presence that we may breathe deeply of that fellowship that gives strength and courage for every good work.

Let us walk in the light of thy love that we may readily see the shadow in the background of every temptation and experience no sorrow of soul because we have been deceived by the powers of darkness.

Help us, blessed Lord, to yield our lives to Thy leadership that we may fulfill thy purpose in us to-day. May we continue to know by experience, both now and in that life to come, that, "at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." In the name of Christ. *Amen.*

EDWARD C. MCCOWN
MOUNT LEBANON UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, Pa.

VISION AND WONDERMENT

ALMIGHTY God, our divine Father, we think it is very wonderful that we may speak to Thee, and even more wonderful that we may ask Thee for what we need and want, with the blessed assurance that Thou wilt hear us, answer us, and bless us. Remembering the manifold and multiform gifts of Thy wondrous love in the days that have gone by, we want to thank Thee out of reverent and grateful hearts for all of them; and we are emboldened to come to Thee again beseeching Thee for a continuance of Thy gracious favor and providential care. Help us, Holy Father, to know Thy will and to merge our wills into Thine own. May no longing of our hearts ever offend Thee; and may we meditate in Thy counsels day and night. Lift us by Thy Holy Spirit out of all selfishness; and graciously grant that we may realize what it means to be a son or daughter of God. Give us a vision of the needs of all the peoples of this world, and help each one of us deeply to feel how much he owes this world, seeing that we are partners of Thine and colaborers with Thee. O Holy Father, keep us from setting our affections upon things beneath, but aid us in Thy love to seek the things that are above and to lay up treasures in heaven. Make us, we humbly plead, happy, useful, helpful, and ever loyal to Thee while we live on earth, and set us in Thy presence blameless, in exceeding joy, when the earth-life is done. In Jesus' blessed name we pray. *Amen.*

WALLACE THARP
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Eutaw, Ala.

GOD EVER PRESENT

O GOD, we thank Thee for the constant gift of Thyself to us. Even in our dullest moments we are dimly aware of Thy presence. But when our minds are truly awake and sensitive to the pageantry of life, we are overwhelmed with the sense of Thee Who art the beauty and sublimity and unity of all that lives and has being. And turning away from the evidences of Divine Vitality all about us, to the contemplation of the life within, we discover Thee there quickening our perceptions of beauty and truth, encouraging our wills to deeds of justice and mercy, kindling in us love to Thee and to all mankind.

So we do not come with a prayer for *things*, for in the perpetual gift of *Thyself* to us Thou hast given us everything. We pray only that Thou wilt keep alive in us a more persistent consciousness of Thy never-failing presence and of Thy boundless self-giving.

In sorrow and in joy, in loneliness and in the happy hours of rich human companionship, in victory and in defeat, in life and in death help us to know that we still have Thee as Thou dost hold us in the arms of Everlasting Love and of Wealth Eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALBERT EDWARD DAY
CHRIST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE REPORT OF THE WORD

OUR Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy wondrous Word. We thank Thee for the assurance that it shall not return unto Thee void, but shall prosper in that whereunto Thou dost send it.

At the close of this day may Thy Word return unto Thee with the report of comfort given to sorrowing hearts everywhere. May it lighten many a soul in Gethsemane! May it come to report to Thee companionship brought into many lonely lives, as they are brought into new fellowships by the magnetism of the cross! May it report to Thee conviction as to the right answer for many a vital problem, sought in prayer! May it report to Thee conversion of many who have wandered into far countries of the spirit, but have come to themselves! May it report to Thee the smiles on the faces of little children made glad by Thy peace on aged heads! In the name of Thy word made flesh. *Amen.*

ROY EWING VALE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Oak Park, Ill.

FELLOWSHIP WITH GREAT SOULS

ALMIGHTY God, in whose appointment our life standeth, we pray for a deeper sense of Thy greatness round about our littleness. Make us more alive to the beauty and interest and wonder of our world, and stir our hearts by remembrance of the noblest of our race, before whom we feel ashamed of all that is beneath our best. Amid the changes of our earthly life, help us to trust thine eternal will ever working with us to give meaning to our brief existence. Teach us, day by day, to be patient with ourselves and with each other. Keep us from cowardice and self-pity. Increase our power of making friends and give us grace to keep our friendships in repair. And grant, most merciful Father, that none may remember us as the beginning of their sin. Fill our narrow lives with Thy Spirit that was in Christ, that we may live in fellowship with all great souls who have used their powers as gifts from Thee. By the trials we face and the hopes we cherish, unite us with our human kind throughout the earth; and wherever we are called to labor, there, in Christ's name, may we render service for the whole race to which we belong. *Amen.*

ROBERT RUSSELL WICKS
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Princeton, N. J.

GOD AND LIFE

ALMIGHTY God, we turn to Thee, away from the preoccupations of the fast-following days of our mortality, to rest our little lives in the great calm of Thine infinitude. We are feeble, futile, fleeting; Thou hast all power, all wisdom, all time, and the eternities. All things about us change, and there is nought to trust, save Thee only. But Thou, whose very majesty is of the character of love, hast bidden us take refuge in Thee, accept from Thee the protection of a father, receive in Thee the assurance of peace through pain and of life beyond death. So in Thee we anchor our faith; and we would repose our weary spirits in the contemplation of Thy limitless goodness.

Thou, Lord, art holy; and we, who come to Thee, are sinful: of nature prone to evil, and of wills corrupted from Thine obedience. Yet Thou hast called us out of the ways of transgression to receive Thy pardon; Thou hast wrought and taught, suffered and died on earth to reclaim us, in the person of Jesus our Saviour; and by the memory of His life and the pledge of His passion we are made bold to present our very sins as a sacrifice at Thine altar, beseeching thee to consume them in the fire of Thy righteousness, and, by the light of Thy contenance turned to us in favor, to deliver us from the darkness of self-service and the dominion of our base desires.

In the perversity of our hearts, O God, we have too often forgotten our brethren, and sought only our own comfort and advantage. But, by the realization in this presence of Thy love, we are moved to desire, also, the visitation of Thy compassionate mercy on all men everywhere.

May the tempted, the rebellious, the careless, the desperate be reclaimed and restrained from their errors, and strengthened in honorable purpose, by Thy hand of might and gentleness; may the sorrowing be comforted by Thy word of hope and promise; may the suffering endure patiently, as sharing the agonies of Christ, and in Thy good time be restored by the Great Physician; may the dying be cheered by the vision of unending day in the gardens of Thy grace, beyond the valley of the shadows; may those who know Thee not be brought, by Thy Spirit of truth, through the ministries of all faithful Christians in the unity of the Church Invisible, to the joyful experience of Thy redemption.

Finally, our Father, in the perplexities of a world still rent by quarrels and tortured by hatred, and of a country confronting grave problems and unprecedented opportunities, we turn to Thee, who art King of kings and Governor of every land: do Thou preside at the councils of our country, and direct the affairs of all mankind, that out of the perils and uncertainties of this time may come the promotion of Thy will, the vindication of Thy law, and the acceptance of Thy redeeming love, among all nations. And Thine shall be our praise forever, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

RUSSELL HENRY STAFFORD
OLD SOUTH CHURCH
Boston, Mass.

ADVENTURERS WITH GOD

O THOU who art the Companion of our way, we rejoice in Thy constant nearness as our Friend and Saviour. Through Thy presence are we ever heartened and inspired and life for us is daily made worth-while. Thou hast called us to be adventurers upon life's highway for Thee and Thy truth. We pray for strength that we may live according to our best selves in the light of Thy life, fully alive to every possibility and conscious of every divine resource. We seek the empowerment of Thy Spirit that our bodies may be strong, minds alert, and souls responsive. Grant to us direction that we may never swerve in the pathway of high resolve and noble endeavor, and may others be heartened for goodness and rightness of living because of the white glow of Thy life in ours! In His name we pray. *Amen.*

ALFRED SAMUEL NICKLESS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
Detroit, Mich.

CONFIDENCE AND DESIRE

INTO Thy presence we come, our Father, not timidly, but confidently, for we belong to Thy family. We remember the word which tells us of Thy readiness to give good things to them that ask Thee. Grant us, we beseech Thee, those good things without which we shall be poor and inefficient and helpless. May joyousness be in our hearts as we enter upon the day's task. As we look out upon the world, help us always to remember that it is our Father's world and that we are his stewards intrusted with his affairs. May it be our earnest desire to render a good account of our stewardship. If weakness of body, or faintness of heart, or loss of that which we held dear, shall make the way seem dark and discouraging, tell us, in words that we shall not fail to hear, that we are not alone because Thou art with us all the days.

May we be strong to-day in the strength which thou dost give. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

WILLIAM S. ABERNATHY
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Washington, D. C.

THE GIFT OF SERVICE OF YOUTH

O GOD our Father, we thank Thee for our youth. Even God could confer on His earthly children no greater gift. We thank Thee for a place in Thy Church where we can find congenial fellowship and render real service. Especially do we thank Thee for the Sunday school and the League through which we may relate ourselves in organized form to the work of Thy kingdom. As an expression of our appreciation we would come now in holy consecration and lay ourselves without reservation on thine altar for service. While the dew of the morning is still upon us we would give ourselves in whole-hearted surrender to Thee. Guide us to some place which we can worthily fill. Give us some work which we may joyously do. Help us to be true to the highest we know, and make us more and more like Him who is the express image of Thyself. Stimulate in us all that is noble and worth while, and curb and eliminate all that is base and unworthy. So shall we live useful and happy lives and at the same time make the largest possible contribution to the building of Thy kingdom in the earth. We ask it all in Jesus's name and for His sake. *Amen.*

FORNEY HUTCHINSON
ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
Oklahoma City, Okla.

A BALANCED LIFE

ETERNAL God, we pray Thee that Thou wilt unify our lives. Bring proportion and peace out of their confusion. Forgive us our aimless living, the random dispersion of our souls in things that matter little or not at all. Give us faith in something so beautiful and good that our lives will be drawn into symmetry by our vision and love of it. Save us from cynicism, from skepticism, from all those maladies of the mind and moods of the spirit that despoil life of worth. Give us love, O God. Bestow on us the fine gift of friendliness. Forgive us for our angers, hatreds, grudges, and vindictiveness. Below all our differences teach us our brotherhood. Beyond all our varieties teach us our common goal.

We ask it in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK
PARK AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
New York, N. Y.

ADORATION AND PETITION

OUR Gracious Heavenly Father, we bow in humble adoration before Thee and seek Thy grace. We gratefully acknowledge Thee as the giver of all good, and keenly conscious of our sin we turn to Thee for salvation and forgiveness. Realizing our imperfect knowledge of life and its relationships, we seek Thy great wisdom. Impulsive and too easily irritated, we desire the spirit of patience and poise of character we see in Jesus. Open to us, O God, the true vision of life; give us the courage to undertake its every task and the faith to keep on to its completion. May we not be swallowed up in worldly, material things, but help us to walk consciously in the Spirit of God and in Thy will and purpose, even in the smallest trifles, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

H. A. KELSEY
MUSKINGUM COLLEGE
New Concord, Ohio

INNER LIGHT

ETERNAL God, Our Father, from Whom cometh our life, apart from Thee we do not truly live. Thou knowest us altogether. Thou seest us not as we seem to be, but as we are. We seek Thee as the flowers seek the sun, not to give, but to receive the enfolding light. Illumine Thou our hearts. So shed Thy light upon our inner self that impure thoughts and low desires may find no shelter there. May all that is within us praise Thee. Illumine Thou our minds. May pride and prejudice and the half-truths that lure but deceive make room for Him Who is the Truth. Illumine Thou our path. Keep us from the broad and easy road that leadeth to destruction, and help us find the narrow way that leads to the abundant life. Thus walking in the light may we have fellowship with Thee through Him Who is the Light of the World. *Amen.*

HAROLD C. PHILLIPS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Cleveland, Ohio

PRAYER FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

OUR Father, we thank Thee for the springtime of life, for its freshness and beauty. We thank Thee for the enthusiasm and radiance of youth. We would that all the powers with which Thou hast endowed young men and young women might be consecrated to Thee, so that no gift might be marred, none mutilated, none lost; but that all might be kept and invested and thus enriched and multiplied in Thy service. Let the young people know of Thy loving solicitude, Thy sympathetic care, and Thine infinite wisdom for the right employment of life, and may they find in their deepest inner experience the sweetness and glory of Thy reward. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

MRS. J. M. DAWSON
Waco, Tex.

AT THE BEGINNING OF WORK

FATHER God, I am beginning the day's work in the spirit of Jesus. He linked His own labor with Thine and said that His daily food was to finish the work which was Thy gift. Help me, then, to color all my day's activity with the unfailing consciousness that every item of it has divine value. Help me to think clearly and fearlessly about my work and not to fall into ruts and dull routine. Help me to put enthusiasm into what I do, because it counts for the welfare of others, for my own satisfaction, and for the completion of Thy wise and loving purpose for the world. May I not grow stale in routine or break down under the pressure of my work! I share my day's burden with Thee, my Father, as Thou dost share Thy plans with me. *Amen.*

OZORA S. DAVIS
CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Chicago, Ill.

TAKING CHRIST IN EARNEST

IN the name of Jesus Christ we come to Thee, O God, praying that Thou wouldst help us to take Him in earnest everywhere; at the ballot box as well as at our bedside. We do not want to be made a little better by putting away only our nasty sins. We want that all sinful things may pass away, and that all things in our life may become new. We want to be not almost but altogether Christians. Help us to stand foursquare and firm in the presence of every wind of temptation that may blow upon us and erect under every burden of responsibility. May we always feel that the yoke of Christ is easy because of the vast treasure it enables us to draw from his storehouse of blessing. Help us ever to keep believing in Jesus Christ as a present, personal, and perfect Saviour. May Thy love shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit be the mainspring of every service we render to God or to our neighbor; and may we realize that, having given ourselves to Thee, we are committed not only to Thy service on earth, but also to serve Thee forever in heaven.

We ask all these things for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

S. D. CHOWN
THE UNITED CHURCH
Toronto, Canada

A PRAYER FOR SINCERITY

O GOD Our Father, we desire above all else to be honest with Thee and with ourselves. Words are so inadequate to express the hunger of our spirits. They so easily betray us into some insincerity of expression or attitude. Save us from trying to appear something before Thee that we are not before our neighbors.

Help us to think clearly and honestly without self-deception. Help us to speak without pretense or exaggeration, that no one may be misled by our conversation.

Help us to act with such straightforward integrity that no deed or work of ours may appear other than it really is.

Make clear to us, O righteous Father, every flaw of falsehood, every subtle device of insincerity, and give us grace to overcome all deceit and fraud and indirection with the unaffected reality of a Christian character.

In the name of Christ we ask it. *Amen.*

LUCIUS H. BUGBEE
HENNEPIN AVENUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Minneapolis, Minn.

IN OUR FATHER'S FAMILY

OUR Father in heaven, we thank Thee that Thou hast established between us the loving relationship of Fatherhood, for we know that Thou hast given us a place in Thy home.

All unworthy of this relation, we plead the redeeming power of Thy love and Thy wonderful forgiveness. We thank Thee that this relation also gives to us the affection and companionability of so many of Thy children whom Thou hast included in Thy Fatherhood. We thank Thee for their lives, their influence, and their friendship. May we be worthy of such universal family ties.

We pray Thy blessing upon Thy children everywhere. Give victory, we pray, to those who are tempted. Uphold and strengthen those who are weak. Give grace and comfort to those who mourn, and may the vision of faith brighten before all who are to enter the valley of the shadow of death.

We pray that the growing influence of Christ's truth and teaching may become world-wide and that nations now in darkness, superstition, and sin may find the Light of the World, even the Saviour of men, Jesus Christ.

Bless our own land, and may we as Christian citizens do our full part to elevate her standards, carry out her laws, develop her character, and establish peace and good will among men.

We ask it in the name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

JOHN TIMOTHY STONE
M'CORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Chicago, Ill.

THE DAY OF GOD'S KINGDOM

O LORD God of Hosts, cause us to realize that nothing is impossible when men have faith. Give us the courage of our convictions. Create within us a yearning for noble living. Keep us from selfishness, from prejudice, from bigotry, and from neglect of Thee. Inspire us in the name of the prophets, the Christian martyrs, and the long succession of saints. Make us mindful of the rights, needs, and sorrows of others. Help us to grow in the stature of Christ. May Thy Church be strong because of our strength!

Thou art our Heavenly Father. We are all children of the Divine Family, with Christ as elder brother. May he be to us a comrade on our journey toward the Eternal City!

May the peace that passeth understanding be his gift to us all! May we so think and live as to become brothers; to hasten the day of the kingdom of God.

So pray we in the Master's name. *Amen.*

CLINTON WUNDER
THE BAPTIST TEMPLE
Rochester, N. Y.

EVERY MAN

O GOD, together we lift up hearts of love and praise for Thy constant mercies which bless us with the morning light and fall upon us with the evening shadows. The only return we can make to Thee is to love Thee and to serve Thy holy will; all else we must give to others, whose need is like our own. Lord, may every day make Thee more real to us, until at last no other friend shall be so near. Show us Thy will for each of us, lest we grope our way through life, finding no guide and reaching no goal. While we enjoy every blessing bestowed upon us, let us not set our hearts on things that perish with the using. May our failures teach us sympathy for all who fail and our need of forgiveness make us forgiving to others who sin. Let us not spoil a single day by deeds that may not be undone, or grieve a single heart by words that cannot be recalled. To Thy mercy we offer our prayer, in the name of Him who alone can help us to live in faith and faithfulness, even Jesus Christ, our Saviour. *Amen.*

JOSEPH FORT NEWTON
MEMORIAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL
Philadelphia, Pa.

THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

ALMIGHTY and Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we worship Thee in the conscious experience of the great love Thou hast for us, Thy erring and sinful children. We praise Thee for the wisdom Thou didst display in the creation and for Thy truth which frees us from our slavery to sin, ignorance, fear, and weakness.

We thank Thee for Jesus Christ, who redeemed us from sin with his own precious blood and "begat us again unto a living hope by his resurrection from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us."

We thank Thee for powers by which we may apprehend and know Thee, for the capacity to enjoy Thee, for challenging tasks which Thou dost give us, for the delight Thou hast in our faithful efforts to accomplish them, and that Thou wilt finally reward us not for having been successful, but for having been faithful.

Endue us with Thy wisdom that we may know and do the good and depart from evil. Give us strength commensurate with our tasks. Teach us daily to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," and to proclaim him to the world with all our powers, until the whole "earth shall be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters cover the sea." Thus we pray in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

J. A. LYTER
CHURCH OF UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
Dayton, Ohio

NEEDS OF MY YOUTH

DEAR Father, these are difficult days, for I must make choices continually that involve not only the present, but the unknown future. These choices will make or mar my life, and they will greatly influence the lives of others. I am so young, dear Father, and know so little about life that I am afraid I shall choose unwisely. I do not know the way, but I bow before Thee, for Thou dost know it. Thou hast had experience with this life of ours and so Thou canst guide me. I commit to Thee, dear Father, my life and my destiny. If I must bear great sorrow, carrying heavy burdens, and suffer much, it will be well if only Thou wilt guide me. In Jesus' name I pray. *Amen.*

R. W. GAMMON
WESTERN EDITOR OF THE CONGREGATIONALIST
Chicago, Ill.

DEVOTION OF BODY AND SPIRIT

LORD, we have bodies, minds, and spirits. With them we would praise Thee and work Thy work in the world.

Make us lithe and strong, ready to dare, able to do. Grant us endurance. Bless us with physical reserves for the mighty emergencies. Give us so to keep our bodies that when we are called they shall fail Thee not.

In like manner we would give to Thee our minds. Grant us patience and fidelity in preparation and study, with the long discipline of finding and facing facts, that more and more through life we may be exalted and cleansed by noble thinking.

Enthrone our spirits above all else. Give us discernment to see Thee everywhere. Nourish in us the desire to know Thee and to walk with Thee. Strengthen us that we may prevail to do Thy will. *Amen.*

HENRY M. EDMONDS
INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Birmingham, Ala.

LIVES TO MATCH THE GOSPEL

O GOD, who gavest Thy blessed Son to be the pioneer and perfecter of faith, enable us to honor with unswerving loyalty his leadership in the endless task of perfect goodness and the enterprise of human redemption. May we think his thoughts, look out on the world through his eyes, take his estimate of the values of things seen and unseen, and more nearly live lives to match the glory of the gospel: walking among men Thy witnesses, Thy perfect knights, Thy warriors in the cause of a better order of life among men. Save us from all that darkens our spirits and lowers our power for fruitful labor. Enlarge our horizons, that we may minister to others who suffer from a famine of Thy word. Baptize us, with all Thy people, into a sense of all human conditions. For the love of Christ. *Amen.*

R. E. WELSH
THE UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
Montreal, Canada

IN THE CIRCLE OF LOVE

OUR gracious Father and our God, we thank Thee for Thy love which never fails, for life and joys and sunny hopes, for strength to struggle and for patience to endure, for vistas of wider usefulness and for visions of better lives.

Forgive us if we have been cowards in the cause of right. Strengthen us to fight more valiantly as followers of Thy Son, that we may win for him the victory and gain from him the crown.

Broaden our sympathies. Make us more eager to serve than to be served, more ready to give than to receive.

Graciously remember our kindred and friends, and make us worthy of their trust. Continue Thy goodness toward our native land. Breathe on all nations the spirit of brotherhood and peace; and bring Thy kingdom upon earth: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CHARLES R. ERDMAN
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Princeton, N. J.

THE LEADING OF GOD

"O Holy Father, who hast led thy children
In all the ages, with the fire and cloud,
Through seas dry-shod, through weary wastes bewildering;
To thee, in reverent love, our hearts are bowed."

WE seek thy guidance. We would know more about thee; we would do thy will. Father, we sometimes forget that Jesus gave his life that we might live. We thank thee for the life which draws all people together. Fill our hearts with thy love and help us always to look to Jesus for guidance. May we be kept in the spirit of service! *Amen.*

NELLIE BUCKEY
BALTIMORE CONFERENCE EPWORTH LEAGUE
Hyattsville, Md.

THE GAME CALLED "LIFE"

WE thank Thee, Lord, for the stalwart men
Who have given the college fame,
Who have flashed to the front with her colors true
And have made the world bow at her name.

We thank Thee for all those difficult hours
Of training, of practice, of grit,
For the discipline of their glorious powers,
That their bodies and minds might be fit.

We thank Thee for moments of poignant zest,
When the game or the race began,
And everyone of us gave our best,
And our eyes would not leave our man.

For each wonderful contest which made us one,
On the side-lines, or playing the game,
We thank Thee, God, and we pray that our sport
Has brought to the school no shame.

But just outside the broad gym doors
Waits a game which we all may play—
With a strategy keen, and foes to meet,
And a score at the end of each day.

God, we who have played on field and court,
And we who have cheered from the seats,
Make us valiant all in the game of life
And brave in the face of defeats.

For the news will flash from hill to hill,
Just as it did of yore,
And the world will judge the school we love
By our spirit, our skill, and our score.

BERNARD C. CLAUSEN
PASTOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Syracuse, N. Y.

GRATITUDE AND LONGING

O LORD, our Father, open our eyes that we may constantly see how greatly Thou hast blest us. We rejoice in life, with its riches and exciting opportunities. We are grateful for the treasures of wisdom and beauty that the past has put into our hands. We thank Thee for those who have gone before us, who have loved truth and lived bravely. We bless Thee for those who trust us, who think us better than we are, and love us better than we deserve. We earnestly desire to be worthy of these gifts and this trust. We pray Thee that we may exercise this day the noblest capacities that are within us. Give us courage, fidelity, and strength to put into daily practice our best thought and dispositions and the things we most sincerely believe. *Amen.*

JAY T. STOCKING
PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
St. Louis, Mo.

LIGHT AND LEADING

TEACH me, my Father, the true meaning of life and let Thy love be my guide. In light and shadow, in gloom and gladness, hold Thou my hand. If I falter, strengthen; if I fail, comfort; but never let me be content without the struggle upward. Teach me that my life is true only as it reflects Thy image. Let me hear Thy voice amid the maddening tumult of things, and at evening when the task is done and the toiler is at rest. Open Thou mine eyes that I may see Thy face: in the flowers and the starlit skies, the revelation of Thy beauty; in the sunshine of a child 's heart, the revelation of Thy love; in the upward yearning of my own soul, the revelation of Thy unfailing faith.

Teach me to honor my freedom because it is the seal of the confidence of my Creator; to love Peace, the daughter of purity and the handmaid of power; to follow Truth through clouds of doubt to the heights of vision, where I can see as Thou seest and understand as Thou understandest. May I despise no burden, remembering that rest is Thy gift only to the weary. Show me that Personality is greater than Individuality, and that gentleness is the secret of strength. That I may help Thee to answer my prayer, teach me to speak in gentler tones; to think in kindlier moods; to love in deeper notes; to serve in wider fields. *Amen.*

PAUL B. KERN
TRAVIS PARK METHODIST CHURCH
San Antonio, Tex.

WORSHIP AND PETITION

OUR dear Heavenly Father, we reverence, love, and worship Thee. Thy kindness is so great toward us that even in our weakness and in our disobedience Thou art willing to hear us when we pray.

Lift us up, that we may see more light and not stumble; give us of Thy grace, that we may have more strength to resist evil.

Reveal Thy will to us, that we may in life do the work Thou hast for us to do. Help us to be tender and affectionate to the poor and needy all about us. Fill us with a passion for winning the lost to the way of Jesus Christ, the Saviour.

Give us influence and power over our associates, in our daily living.

Give us, we pray, a constant faith that will make us steadfast Christians day by day.

Make us by Thy indwelling spirit a blessing to our fellow men and an honor to thee. *Amen.*

WILLIAM R. FUNK
CHURCH OF UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
Dayton, Ohio

TO THE GREAT LISTENER

SOMETIMES it seems hard to believe that Some one listens when I speak out into the Great Silence. It seems very empty. And I seem so still and so alone. And sometimes it seems as if there were multitudes of listeners picking up what I say and carrying it about with a thousand echoes; friendly listeners and hostile listeners and amused ironic listeners. But to-night I am seeking One Listener. I want to find the God who listens with the ears of Jesus. I want to find the God who sees with the eyes of Jesus. I want to find the God who feels with the heart of Jesus. I am ready to pray if I can find the God who became articulate among men in the life of the Man of Galilee.

And I am daring to believe that all that lived in Jesus live forever in God himself. I am daring to believe that the love of Jesus is the love of God.

So, Great Listener with the heart of Jesus, I leave my case with you. It is not a very good case. And I have not much to say for myself. But I think I will not be cast out if you behold me with eyes which once looked down from the cross.

I am not forgetting that I must pledge myself to the Spirit of the Cross if my words are to find their way to you. I am afraid of that. It is too great for me. But I cannot quite ignore it. And with your help I can find a place for the cross in my heart. O Great Listener, will you help me? *Amen.*

LYNN HAROLD HOUGH
AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Montreal, Canada

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FATHER

WE thank Thee, our Heavenly Father, that Thou hast called us into partnership with Thee. Since Thou art our partner, we cannot fail. Our victory is sure. Give us eyes to see Thee and hearts to love Thee and minds to know Thee and wills to obey Thee. Let the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus.

Look upon us with Thy favor. Give us grace to employ our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us, that whatsoever our hand findeth to do we may do it with our might. We would be out for the best. May nothing short of the best ever satisfy us.

Help us to learn that the problems which disturb and perplex us are no problems with Thee. Guide us along the right way that we may harmonize our purpose with Thine. We ask for clear vision, unfaltering courage, and a faith that never shrinks. May Thy Spirit be present in our meeting, the spirit of fellowship, good will, and cheerful service. In His name. *Amen.*

FRANKLIN F. FRY
BOARD OF AMERICAN MISSIONS
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
New York, N. Y.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

ALMIGHTY Father, as Thy Word teaches us, we would draw upon Thy resources. Thou hast placed upon us the responsibilities of life in this ambiguous world, and every day is crowded with fateful decisions. We seek Thy wisdom.

Our hands are clumsy, and ofttimes we find our fingers clutched in the heartstrings of a fellow man. We do not see values clearly, and our hearts are not quickly responsive to the needs and sorrows of Thy world.

We beseech Thee, help us to keep the narrow Way, that we may help others and make the path plainer for little feet which come pattering down the road behind us. We would look upon the world through the eyes of Jesus, feel toward it with the heart of Jesus, and put the hands of Jesus upon its needs in loving service. *Amen.*

LEWIS THURBER GUILD
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Los Angeles, Calif.

NEARER TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

HOLY and Righteous Father, we come to Thee for cleansing, for inspiration, for power. Empty our hearts of all selfishness and fill them with the passion of Thy dear Son. Give us the vision splendid that our eyes may not be blinded by the things of sense. Quicken our zeal for the coming of Thy kingdom. Upbear us under trials and discouragements, and lead us into a devotion that will never rest satisfied until Thy work is done. Impart unto us the gift of sacred sympathy, and bind us together in sacrificial labor for the welfare of mankind. Grant unto us the open mind, the ready hand, the loving heart, and the obedient will. O God, draw us closer to Thee in Christ that we may be drawn nearer to one another. In His name and for His sake, we ask it. *Amen.*

ALLAN P. SHATFORD
CANON, ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE CHUPCH
Montreal, Canada

SERVICE AND SELF-CONTROL

GRACIOUS God, make us sensible that we belong to Thee. Thou hast made us Thine own by the price which Christ, our Saviour, paid in the service of his life and death. May we also serve Thee. Keep us humble and mindful of our infirmities, but ever willing to use the powers we possess for good and not for evil. Give us a firm faith which will not let Thee go, and victory over all doubts that may arise between us and Thee. Make us sharers in the work of the extension of Thy kingdom in this and all other lands. Give us control over our desires and passions, and direct us inwardly by Thy Spirit so that our minds may be alert and our wills responsive to all opportunities to promote righteousness and to withstand iniquity. Make our lives a blessing and a praise to Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A. G. VOIGT
LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY
Columbia, S. C.

OUR INBORN HUNGERS

GREAT God of our fathers, we their sons desire to feel thy presence. We thank Thee for the echoes of experiences which have come to us from the lives and lips of those who have known Thee in the past. Speak Thou to us in tones to-day as plainly as Thou didst talk to the men of yesterday. Help us to understand how Thou art vast enough to create the planets and yet close enough to control our persons. Teach us to walk by faith until we can see with the mind. Give us the will to do the duty nearest to us until we shall find the way to the farthest goals of life. Quicken our inborn hungers for beauty, truth, and goodness, that by seeking the best we know we may find the best Thou knowest. All this we ask in the name of Him who came to reveal Thee and to redeem us, Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*

RALPH W. SOCKMAN
MADISON AVENUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
New York, N. Y.

UNKNOWN BUT TRUSTED

FATHER, we are young and unknown to the world, but Thou dost know us and believe in us. We bring but little. Thy word tells of a lad who was lost in the multitudes by the shore of Galilee. But when Jesus called this lad brought his lunch of five loaves and two fishes. When Jesus added His blessing, there was more than enough for five thousand men beside women and children.

We want to follow that lad's example. We want to bring whatever we have of time, of talent, of treasure. We believe that Jesus can take our little and accomplish much. With this confidence we dedicate ourselves and our all to Thee, and we do it fully, heartily, joyfully, for Thy name's sake. *Amen.*

JOHN JETER HURT
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Jackson, Tenn.

SATISFACTION OF OBEDIENCE

OUR Father, we thank Thee for the life of our Lord upon earth. We thank Thee for the record of his devotion to Thy will. We are glad to know that he discovered that will in the deep study of Thy word. It helps us to know that he found daily strength for obedience. In our own youth we too need to know Thy will. As we now come to the study of Thy word, grant us the help of the Holy Spirit to a clear understanding of the truth. Grant us also the strength of purpose for the doing of it in home and school, office and shop. In this obedience let us find our chief delight and satisfaction. In His name we ask it. *Amen.*

C. L. SORG
EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Kansas City, Mo.

JOY AND OPPORTUNITY

OUR Heavenly Father, the youth of our land comes to Thee with a heart full of joy and thanksgiving. The age in which we live brings to our minds and bodies opportunities such as were never offered to youth before. With these blessings, with these opportunities, with these special privileges we offer our lives in service that we may help permeate the world with the ever-new message of Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

F. S. JAMES
PRESIDENT SOUTH CAROLINA EPWORTH LEAGUE
Aynor, S. C.

LIFE AND PRIVILEGE

OUR dear Heavenly Father, we come as Thy children, thanking Thee for life, for the privilege of service, and for the joys of Christian fellowship. And, O Father, how we do thank Thee for Jesus, through whom we really know thee. What a Friend! What a Saviour! Help us each day to love him and be like him.

We thank Thee that we are being made in Thine own spiritual likeness, with minds and emotions and wills. We thank Thee for the power of faith and the glory of love. We thank Thee for our bodies, capable of work and play and service to Thee.

Our Father, we thank Thee for home and church and school and what they are contributing to our lives. We pray that Thou mayest bless us each day, so that we may be what it is possible for us to be, that we shall not fail Thee or our fellow man.

In Christ's name we ask it. *Amen.*

JOHN W. INZER
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Chattanooga, Tenn.

THE FEAST OF LIFE

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, we bless Thee for Thy rich gifts: the uplift of song, the cordial of prayer, the inspiration of truth, and the inward quickening of Thy Spirit. Stir then our hearts to unfeigned and unconquerable rejoicing. Grant us new opportunities of service and supreme joy in the growth and happiness of youth. Teach us to find life a feast and not a fast. Send us hence on winged feet with elastic spirit and abundant hope. So constrain us with the splendors of Thy grace and the glories of Thy Son, Jesus the Christ, that we may walk with Thee all the days of our lives. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and help us to love only the things that are good and true: we ask in the name of Christ, our Redeemer and Saviour. *Amen.*

TRAVERCE HARRISON
PASTOR FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Kansas City, Mo.

THE TIME OF NEED

OUR Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the times and for the experiences when we feel the need of Thee most deeply. We know that the only true life is life that is aware of Thee and of our need of Thee. Forgive us that we have so often ceased to live by forgetting our absolute dependence upon Thee; and deliver us from the pride of our strength and the folly of our self-confidence, which is death.

Give us the mind of Christ who did always the things which pleased Thee and who was one with Thee in all being, and make us also one with Thee in him. Help us by Thy Holy Spirit to use memory and imagination, will and affection, to make him and Thee our greatest reality, and by Thy power fulfill in us the sense of Thy presence and the purity and joy of Thy life. *Amen.*

ROBERT E. SPEER
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN U.S.A.
New York, N. Y.

THE CIRCLE OF HIS LOVE

DEAR Father, each day our hearts are made glad because of the blessings which come from Thee. But, most of all, we thank Thee for the great gift of Thy Father-love—Jesus Christ, our Saviour and the Saviour of all the world.

We pray Thee that, even as he once came to earth and lived among men, he may come to-day and dwell in the hearts of Thy children. May the beautiful Spirit of our Master so fill our lives that others, seeing him in us, may be drawn into the circle of his tender love. Help us to grow so like him in courage and gentleness and purity and joy and love that some day we may awaken in his image. We ask it in his dear name. *Amen.*

ELIZABETH BROWN
PRESIDENT HOLSTON EPWORTH LEAGUE CONFERENCE
East Radford, Va.

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

OUR Father-God, we are glad that Thou hast not left us in the darkness of ignorance and superstition concerning Thyself and Thy will, concerning ourselves, our duty and destiny.

Thou hast revealed thyself through the world Thou hast made; for the heavens declare Thy glory, and the firmament showeth Thy handiwork.

Thou hast revealed Thyself through Thy written word; for holy men of old spoke as they were moved by Thy Holy Spirit.

Thou hast revealed Thyself best of all through Jesus Christ, Thy son, our Saviour and Lord; for in him we see the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Grant, we beseech Thee, that Thy Holy Spirit may be given unto us that we may see Thee in the world Thou hast made, behold wondrous things in the law Thou hast given, and follow closely in helpful service Him whom Thou didst send to be our Saviour and Guide. *Amen.*

J. E. DILLARD
SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
Birmingham, Ala.

RELIGION IN THE HOME

LORD Jesus, our great Elder Brother, who didst know on earth the love of father and mother, and didst share a home with brothers and sisters, teach us Thy way in our own homes. May we not reserve our best faces for strangers and relieve our feelings at the expense of those we love: Save us from the false bashfulness that holds back words of affection or acknowledgment of mistakes. Remind us of chances for unaccustomed bits of helpfulness. Shame us out of words of impatience before they are spoken. Give us understanding hearts, eternal vigilance against selfishness and irritation, and the love that envieth not, vaunteth not itself, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, never faileth. *Amen.*

FRANK J. SCRIBNER
CONGREGATIONALIST CHURCH
Janesville, Wis.

TRAGIC WEAKNESS AND SAVING STRENGTH

OUR Father, we have seen the light of Thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord, and therefore we come to Thee in confidence.

We come in prayer seeking wisdom that we may succeed as Thou dost view success, in this great adventure of living.

Help us to learn the tragic weakness and folly of sin and the thrill of high living. Save us, O God, from the sin of uselessness and may we become fit instruments for Thy great tasks. Show us our place in Thy field that we may do well our part and come at last to life's close knowing that when we had our chance here we played well our part for Thee and for others.

We lift this, our prayer, in the name of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A. W. BEAVEN
LAKE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rochester, N. Y.

REAL LIVING

FATHER of all, we humbly approach Thee to ask Thy blessing upon our work of the day. Thou art the ruler of all, and we are Thy children. Guide us in our daily tasks that we may prove helpful to ourselves and to our fellow creatures, and may we perform our duties in the world in which we live acceptably to Thee. Teach us that industry, honesty, integrity, and truth are the real things of life. Let us not forget Thee, our early God, and the blessings that have come to us and to the universe through Thy love and watchfulness. As Thou hast made us to understand that all mundane learning and knowledge are as naught compared with spiritual wisdom, we pray Thee to cause us to appreciate the virtues that make for honorable lives and worthy achievements.

Have us in Thy keeping, O Heavenly Father, and make us feel that Thou art our Protector and Saviour, and that to Thee we are bound. Bestow upon us a double portion of Thy spirit, even as Thou didst bestow this benediction upon the prophets of old.

Cause Thy face to shine upon us and upon all humanity for ever and ever. *Amen.*

HENRY COHEN
CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
Galveston, Tex.

THE END OF THE DAY

ANOTHER day Thou hast given. Have we this day done Thy will? Have we denied ourselves ought for Thee? Have we any sacrifice suffered for Thee? Have we lived this day as for Thee?

Thou knowest our weakness, but Thy power knows no limit. Strengthen Thou us.

Make us to know the number of our days, to know Thy will, Thy way. Make us to know Thy love. *Amen.*

HORACE E. CROMER
MAIN STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Suffolk, Va.

INDEBTEDNESS

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, we give Thee thanks for the many mercies that crowd our lives. We cannot count our blessings, for they are beyond number, and they come to us new every morning and fresh every evening. Make us able to see even the experiences which seem against us in the light of Thy goodness, judging our experiences by our assurance of Thy love and not judging Thy love by our experiences. But we thank Thee that these hard experiences do not make up the main measure of our lives. We are hopelessly in debt to Thy love for the enrichment that is always coming to us in our friends, in our work, in our natural powers, in our hopes, in our aspirations. Forgive us for the miserable sin of ingratitude and strengthen in us the grace of thanksgiving. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CLELAND B. MCAFEE
M'CORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Chicago, Ill.

A HOLY DISCONTENT

OUR Father, we come to Thee that we may praise Thee and seek Thy help. We have found Thy New and Living Way. For every blessing we offer Thee our praise. Slowly we are learning to cast our burdens upon Thee. Like children in the night, we cry out; then on the wings of light the angels of Thy comfort come, and we know that Thou art near.

Give us a holy discontent with present attainments. Teach us what we may know of Divine Love, and the meaning and glory of our spiritual service with its outreach to fellow men and its upreach to Thyself.

Help us to be fellow workers for the truth. Give us a vision, world-wide, of the ever-whitening fields. We are waiting, Father, Thy time, Thy way, Thy call, and the unfolding of Thy loving purpose. Make us meet the Master's use, prepared unto every good work. In His blessed name. *Amen.*

WILLARD H. PATTERSON
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Beaver Falls, Pa.

DEPENDENCE

LORD Jesus, Thou art the Word, Thou art God. We have not beheld God except in Thee, and Thou alone hast declared him unto us.

In our ignorance we come to Thee asking for divine wisdom as we seek to know God and ourselves and others and our task in life.

In our sins and failures give to us Thy righteousness, and give to us the desire to go about doing good to others in Thy name.

In our longings after holiness continue in us, we pray, the work of sanctification, and help us to be more like Thee until we shall see Thee as thou art.

In our struggles to be free, be Thou our redemption, and enable us to say in our every battle for right against wrong, "Thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." *Amen.*

WILLIAM WISTAR HAMILTON
BAPTIST BIBLE INSTITUTE
New Orleans, La.

GUIDANCE AND USEFULNESS

OUR Father who art in heaven, we come to worship Thee. Help us not only to realize that Thou art "high and lifted up," but that Thou art near. Help us to be conscious of Thy presence. We would give ourselves to Thee. O give Thyself to us. Cleanse our hearts and enthrone Thyself in them. Reign in our lives.

We confess our sins. We pray that Thou wilt forgive them. Walk with us in order that we may walk continuously in the way of righteousness.

Help us to live for Thee at all times and under all circumstances—in the home, on the street, in the office, in the store, on the farm, in the social circle, on the campus. May Thy kingdom come! May all of life be sanctified by Thy Spirit! Guide our thoughts. Destroy all unworthy motives. Bring to us a new vision of Thyself and of our duty. Guide us into a larger fellowship.

Help us to despise insincerity, sham, snobbishness, selfishness, malice, evil speaking, hypocrisy. Help us to love truth and sincerity. May we be loyal to Thee and to all men everywhere.

Thou hast called us to be good soldiers. Help us to put on "the whole armor of God." Fill our hearts with the spirit of sacrifice and self-denial. May we be able to say, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Give us grace to say sincerely, "Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow not with fears."

Accept us and hear us through Christ our Saviour and Lord. *Amen.*

W. L. MULLIKIN
CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH
Spartanburg, S. C.

ALERTNESS FOR USEFULNESS

OUR Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast revealed Thyself to us in Christ, Thy Son, and through Him made known to us Thy loving grace for men.

We thank Thee for Thy kingdom and its fellowship of love and service. As Thy children we beseech Thee to reveal in us more and more of Thy love, that we may live not only gratefully and lovingly toward Thee, but winsomely toward those who are about us. Give us a real passion for service. Make us alert for opportunities to witness for Thee and give us power that through our witness many may be brought to know and love Thee. Cleanse our hearts from every allegiance save to Thee. Purify our motives. Give us the spirit of Him Who was meek and lowly in heart and so own and use us as good servants of Thine. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

CHARLES H. ROBINSON
THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Wheeling, W. Va.

OUR ALL IN ALL

OUR Heavenly Father, Thou art the All-sufficient, the Light, the Life, the Truth. Thou art love that satisfiest the soul; Thou art wisdom that knowest its needs; Thou art Strength and keepest the soul that trusteth in Thee.

Be gracious unto us, O Lord, and transform us into Thy likeness. Make us strong to resist temptation, quick to learn Thy truth, ready to do Thy will.

May Christ reign in our hearts by the Holy Spirit until our faith will not falter, our hope grow heartless, our love listless. But may we add service to sanctity, fidelity to fervency, and potency to purity.

Shine through us, Lord, to illumine the way of the future. Empower us, Lord, to prevail with Thee against all evil; and crown us with the glory of Thy coming kingdom.

For thine is the kingdom and power and glory, forever. *Amen.*

J. E. SAVAGE
METHODIST PASTOR
Middlesboro, Ky.

TEACH US TO PRAY

OUR Heavenly Father, we earnestly ask that this moment we spend in the attitude of prayer may also be spent in the spirit and knowledge of prayer; may it ever be such a definite and conscious fellowship of our hearts with Thine that it shall become increasingly sweet and satisfying to all of us; may we ever find in the hour of prayer healing for our wounds, peace for our strife, wisdom for our problems, forgiveness for our sins, and blessedness for all of life.

In this moment of prayer we ask that we may all have an increased consciousness of the reality and abiding presence of God and of the transcendent value and supremacy of spiritual things; help us, dear Lord, to set our affections not upon things below, but upon things above. We pray for such an intimate acquaintance with Christ and for such an acceptance of his spirit and program that our own lives may be fruitful in service to the world. Give us, dear Father, such a quickened feeling of responsibility for our own surroundings as will lead us to the best endeavor for their welfare. May we be more faithful to our vows and obligations to our country, our Church, and our homes, that through these agencies we may so love and labor as to speedily bring in the reign of Thy kingdom. *Amen.*

FRANK G. SMITH
FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Omaha, Nebr.

THE WHOLE AREA OF LIFE

OUR Heavenly Father and our Friend, give us a sense of Thy understanding love and sympathy and interest in all our life, its problems and its plans, its joys and hopes and holy possibilities. May the precious days of preparation for life be redeemed by us fully and faithfully! We thank Thee for our master Teacher and unfailing Guide, Jesus Christ. He is the Radiant One. In him we see God in all his gentle love, in all his holy hatred of sin, and in all his mighty and tender power. In him we see our souls redeemed, cleansed, and renewed. Help us to crown him Lord of our life, in every area of it. Help us to grow in likeness to him. Speak to us out of Thy blessed Book all Thy will for our life and our life plans. May our hearts be constantly and quietly saying, "Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth." For Jesus' sake we ask it. *Amen.*

SAMUEL MCPHEETERS GLASGOW
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Knoxville, Tenn.

FOR THE SORROWING

O GOD the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, Who in days of old didst descend upon the infant Church at Pentecost, filling the members thereof with Thy sevenfold gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, True Godliness, and Holy Fear; Thou who hast been in the world in the fullness of Thy power from that day to this, taking invisibly and unseen the very presence, position, and ministry of the visible Christ, binding up the broken-hearted, soothing the distressed, consoling the sad, and strengthening the weak, come down, we beseech Thee, in all Thy Pentecostal power upon these Thy bereaved servants to-day. Bind up their broken hearts, soothe their distress, console their sadness, strengthen their weakness. Vouchsafe to them now and ever the realization that he (or she) whom they knew and loved here on earth has awakened in Thy divine likeness satisfied, entered into the appreciation of those good things which Thou hast prepared for all those who unfeignedly love Thee, and that hereafter he (or she) and they shall be associated together forever in Thy presence. O God the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, pour Thy healing balm into the open wound. We ask it in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Who with Thee, O Blessed Spirit, and with the Father art One God, world without end. *Amen.*

H. P. ALMON ABBOTT
BISHOP, PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Lexington, Ky.

POSSESSION OF CHRIST

OUR Father, we thank Thee for the gift of Thy Son, through whom we know Thee, and in whom we have abundant life. We bring the prayer that possessing his name we may likewise possess a likeness to him.

We pray that we may possess the spirit of utter faith in Thee that was constant in him.

We pray that we may possess the spirit of love toward man that shone so steadily in him.

We pray that we may possess the beauty of holiness with which he was clothed as with a garment of light.

Lord, we pray to possess some likeness to him, that those seeing us may see him and turn from us to him. In Christ's name. *Amen.*

LAWRENCE H. WHARTON
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Austin, Tex.

THE OPENED EYES

OUR Father, we pray that our eyes may be opened to behold Thee! We would see Thee in all Thy beauty and glory, in all Thy strength and power, in all Thy tenderness and love. Reveal Thyself to us as the mighty God who rules the world and as the tender Father who loves the least of his creatures. Let us feel the touch of Thy hand.

We pray that we may catch a new vision of the world of men through the eyes of Jesus. Help us to see their need of Thee and the poverty of soul which is theirs because they have not the joy of the Lord.

We pray that we may see ourselves as we are and as we may be. May our hearts burn within us because we have seen Thee, the world in need, and ourselves as thy messengers. *Amen.*

BERNARD S. VIA
PASTOR METHODIST CHURCH
Blackstone, Va.

AN EVENING PRAYER

O GOD in Whom I live and move and have my being, grant me a deeper sense of Thy sustaining presence through the quiet hours of the night. The day is gone, and now the night has come, calm and beautiful from Thee. The day was given to work in and to plan in, but it is over now and I would leave its fret and labor outside the door and in the quiet coolness of the night commit myself to Thee for rest and renewal against the coming of to-morrow.

I am trusting myself, body and spirit, into Thy loving, tender care. May all the forces of Thy love which make for healing and serenity of mind have free course through me as I rest in Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALBERT W. PALMER
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Oak Park, Ill.

FOR USE OF YOUTH

OUR Father in heaven, who art the guide of our youth, bless us in our preparation for life. Bless us in our studies and give us teachers who know and love Thee. Give us the comrade-spirit, and may our best friend be Christ. Help us in this friendship to be loyal. Save us from being selfish and proud, make us humble, but save us from self-depreciation. Deliver us from evil habits and evil associations. Give us, O Lord, the victorious spirit and save us from all defeatism. Grant us help to give to prayer a larger place in our life and bring us into the kingdom-vision of Jesus. Bless Thy Church, our minister and his work. Give us deeper reverence for holy things, for Thy Church, Thy Word, Thy preached gospel from the hearing of which comes the faith that saves. Bless the home and deepen in us as we grow in years the sanctity of marriage, from which comes the best life gives. Grant us the spirit of helpfulness in all Christian effort. May Thy Spirit help us ever to sow the good seed, and may we never forget that as we sow so shall we reap.

Finding Him, may we live in the mastery of his love, the beauty of his service, and the joy of his obedience. So may we hasten his coming and share in its glory. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

JOHN VAN LEAR
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Little Rock, Ark.

OUR HERITAGE IN CHRIST

OUR Father, we thank Thee for the life of Jesus. He has shown us the best way to grow and serve. We rejoice to be alive to-day and with our entire possessions to work for Thee. Forgive us all our carelessness, our selfishness, and every evil that we have done. Grant that we may possess Thy love. Fill our minds with noble thoughts, our hearts with worthy impulses, our lips with good and honest words, and our hands with deeds of helpfulness. Gird us in every temptation and trial with the glorious purity and power of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our personal Saviour.

Grant that we may realize the real worth of our Christian heritage. We are proud to be intrusted with a share of Thy spiritual kingdom in the world. We would live nobly and generously for thee. Therefore, help us to do our full part in spreading Thy living message to all men and women in the world.

Father, we would know more of Thee. We need direction in our religious experiences. Help us to find the most valuable interpretation of them all. Bestow upon us Thy help in selecting the work Thou dost desire us to do. Give us Thy wisdom that we may approach Thee in every need, so that we may receive the blessing of Thy guiding spirit. Help us to be mindful at all times of Thy love and constant companionship. May our faith be so strong and true that our minds, hearts, and souls may always be counted for Thee in the world. Inspire us daily with Thy presence. Guide us into larger service in the kingdom. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

W. J. WILCOXON
PASTOR METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Centralia, Mo.

ENVY TURNED TO LOVE

THOU confidant of the troubled heart, to Thee I carry my perplexity and my pain. The powers of another have made manifest my own dearth of power. The acclaim bestowed upon another hath left me unacclaimed. O bitter this curbing of my passion, this defeat of my craving to achieve and to shine.

Lord, whither shall I flee in mine anguish? Yet lo, I dare not ask that it be otherwise. That this pain become another's pain instead of mine or that another's exaltation become less and my own exaltation more—how dare I seek?

What can I do then, O my Father, but choose to suffer? O send me back to my work humble and unacclaimed, yet with unimpaired willingness to spend myself at my tasks. In Thine own time and way Thou wilt comfort me. Out of this bitter conflict between that other's triumph and my own frustrate desire for triumph, O vouchsafe that there may come Thy kingdom's triumph. Enfold in Thy common blessing the one whom I envy and also me—even me laden with the heaviness of this hour. Let love emerge from this tribulation. Let it be for both of us a finding of our truest self. For all whose lives we touch let it somehow become yet another incentive toward drawing nearer unto Thee. *Amen.*

ABRAHAM CRONBACH
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE
Cincinnati, Ohio

THE LIFE WORTH LIVING

GRACIOUS Lord and Master of our lives, for the redemption purchased for us on Calvary's cross we give unto Thee our unfeigned, our deep and everlasting thanks.

Thus Thou hast given unto us life worth living. Cause us now to know out of a blessed experience that when we walk with Thee every place is garden-like, for Thy presence and Thy companionship brighten every cloud, lighten every burden, and make smooth the rough places for our feet.

Give, O Holy Spirit, holy ideals and cause our daily endeavor to be commensurate with them. That which is dark within us do Thou illumine; that which is low do Thou exalt, and deliver us from the sickness of sin, the darkness of doubt, and all that robs life of what Thou wouldst have it be.

Give us, gracious God, to understand the real purpose of our redemption—that we have been saved for service. If we have not had a passion for others, forgive us, and may this day's low descending sun be privileged to shine upon some small deed of kindness done or some spoken word of Christian love.

Because Thou, O Christ, hast loved us and given Thyself for us, we love Thee, and

"True hearted, whole hearted, loyal and faithful,
King of our lives, by Thy grace we shall be."

We make this prayer, O Christ, in Thy name and for Thy sake. *Amen.*

WILLIAM EDWARD BIEDERWOLF
DIRECTOR BIBLE CONFERENCE
Winona Lake, Ind.

OUR FELLOW MEN AND OURSELVES

FATHER of Love, accept our thanks for the joyous and abundant life which Thou hast given us through Christ. Help us to manifest our gratitude by faithful and fruitful service. Bless our fellow men. Give them happiness and success. Establish the principle of Christ in the ideals of all nations. Teach men to love peace and brotherhood to the exclusion of war. Enable us individually and collectively to strive through word and deed for the coming of Thy kingdom in the hearts of all men. Forgive us our sins and make us more useful each day. *Amen.*

C. C. CHAPPELL, JR.
PRESIDENT VIRGINIA CONFERENCE EPWORTH LEAGUE
Richmond, Va.

LIVES INTERLINKED

O THOU Great Companion, we thank Thee that Thou didst not place us in a separate and lonely world, but didst bestow upon us the privilege of companionship.

We thank Thee for all the ways of linking our lives to the lives of others: through speech and song, through work and play, through joyous adventure and common hardship, through mutual understanding and sympathy, through common aspirations and common purpose. Teach us to find our share in this gift through the sharing of it; to find the blessing from Thy gift through the giving of it.

And in some way, to us unknown, may our hearts become a part of Thy heart and our minds a part of Thy mind. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

HERMAN M. WILSON
SUPERINTENDENT HOME FOR THE AGED
Gaithersburg, Md.

INVITATION, RESPONSE, AND PETITIONS

O GOD our Father, we come to Thee in prayer because we want to come and because Thou hast invited us. We come because we need Thee. All our help and strength must come from Thee. We want to be strong for the right; we want to be good and pure and helpful. We ask that Thou wilt supply all our need. Give us strength and courage for our task, and wisdom to solve our problems. Give us grace, we pray, to live the Christlike life among our neighbors and help us to overcome temptation. Give us clear vision of duty, fixedness of purpose, devotion to truth, and loyalty to Jesus Christ. Help us to live clean, upright lives in this present evil world. Give us joy in service and patience in suffering. Give us humble, trustful hearts. Make us useful and efficient in building up the kingdom of Christ. We would work with Thee and for Thee in the extension of Thy kingdom. This we ask of Thee in humble trust for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

S. P. SPRENG
BISHOP, EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Naperville, Ill.

A MORNING PRAYER

OUR Master and Lord, may Thy loving presence be real to us to-day. Show us Thy will and help us to do it gladly. Walk with us through all the hours of the day, and bless us in the duties to which we are called. May we find rest and joy in Thy service.

Be near us when the way is rough; stand by us when we are tempted. Help us not to let worldy affairs crowd God out of our life and thought. May our light so shine, may our lives be so clean and true in the home, on the street, at work or play, that Jesus may always have a witness in us. We ask it all in His name. *Amen.*

W. M. BUNTS
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Galax, Va.

EMANCIPATION AND PURPOSE

WE thank Thee, our Father, for this good hour. Prepare us in mind and heart for acceptable worship. So grant us Thy gracious presence that the experiences of this service shall continue with us throughout eternity. Cause us to sense anew our obligations. Make us willing to fail ere we refuse to try; shame us or defeat us, but deliver us from apathy. Let the glow of Christ's cross lighten the hard paths of suffering and sacrifice. Help us to do joyfully and well the humblest tasks. Save us from the meanness of arrogance, and woo us out of the dungeon of selfishness into the light of service for others. Emancipate us from fear, from stinginess, from littleness. Keep alive within us the spirit of growth, of helpfulness, of love, and keep us in constant, conscious touch with Christ, who saved us, and died to save mankind, we ask in His blessed name. *Amen.*

F. M. POWELL
SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Louisville, Ky.

THE CALL FROM DESERT SPACES

ALMIGHTY God, our Father in heaven, we rejoice in the privilege of lifting our hearts unto Thee. We seek communion with Thee because we know Thee through the ministry of Thy Son. The tendrils of our faith cluster around his cross. Therein is our inspiration to continue steadfast in hope and faith and love. We confess that we have not yet entered into the possession of all the graces possible for believing people. But we promise Thee here and now that we will follow the gleam until greater light may break upon us.

We thank Thee for a growing sense of need, for we know that they are blessed who hunger and thirst after the things of God. Grant us, we implore Thee, a supply from Thy hand that all our wants may be met. Call us from the great desert spaces of human failure and loss, that we may be abundantly filled from Thy house. Teach us to live bravely for Thee day by day, that others may take knowledge of us that we have been with Thee. Help us to walk as those who have music within their hearts and the radiance of the light from above upon their pathway. May this be a happier world because of our lives within it. Filled with an everlasting joy, may we display the glories of our Redeemer unto all with whom we are brought into contact in our daily life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WILLIAM CROWE
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
St. Louis, Mo.

CLEANSING AND LIGHT

OUR Father who art in heaven, we honor Thy holy name and thank Thee for the privilege of membership in Thy great family of believers. We thank Thee for the gift of Thine only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, "Whom to know is life eternal."

"Create within us a clean heart, and renew within us a right spirit." Help us continually to bring our wills into submission to Thy will, and may our greatest joy be found in serving Thee, and may that service be rendered in a manner that shall be well pleasing.

We desire to let our light shine, that others seeing our good works may glorify Thee.

Help us to know the truth, that we may walk therein and be free. "May the words of our lips and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength, and our redeemer," and this we ask in the name of Jesus the Christ. *Amen.*

P. H. WELSHIMER
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Canton, Ohio

PRAISE AND YEARNING

OUR Father in heaven, we gladly bring to Thee the praise of our lips and the worship of our hearts; Thou art altogether worthy. We gratefully acknowledge Thee as the Giver of life—its endowments, privileges, and opportunities. Grant us fresh assurance of our acceptance with Thee and renewed evidence of Thy never-failing love; we would be conscious of thy pardoning power and thy directing presence. We long to use well what Thou hast given us, and we crave Thy wisdom, Thy grace, Thy daily companionship. Help us to be willing to trust thee in all life's needs, and crown us with the supreme satisfaction of Thy approval as we joyfully try to do Thy will; for we pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour. *Amen.*

JOHN L. HILL
BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD
Nashville, Tenn.

THE WHISPERINGS OF HIS PRESENCE

FATHER, may we in these moments be clearly conscious of Thy presence. We rejoice that in praying we do not have to cry aloud and beat upon our breasts as did the prophets of Baal. Thou, God, hearest the faintest whisperings of the lowliest heart. May the strident voices of the world be hushed, and may Thy voice of gentle stillness speak to us now! Deliver us from groping hopelessly in the fog-banks of unbelief, and enable us to walk with confidence in the clear light of faith. May we ever have high and holy ideals of life and service: may we ever love these ideals and live true to them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

DUNBAR H. OGDEN
GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Mobile, Ala.

THE VENTURE OF A NEW DAY

OUR Father, we thank Thee for this new day that Thou art intrusting to us. We venture upon it with the blessed assurance that, however hard the task or heavy the load, however exacting our experiences, we have a Father who knows, and cares, and is near, and "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." By Thy help we will be unselfish, brave, uncomplaining, hopeful, cheerful; living, not in the spirit of victims, but of victors; doing what our hands find to do, not in the spirit of slaves, but as Thy friends and partners. We would end this day with the consciousness that wherever our influence has gone, there Thou hast been expressed in terms of love. And when to-night we lie down to rest may Thy "Well done" be our sufficient reward. This is our prayer, in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

J. H. GOLDNER
EUCLID AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Cleveland, Ohio

COMMON CAUSE AND COMMON ALLEGIANCE

O THOU great Eternal one, Thou ruler of the universe and Father of all mankind! We recognize Thy glory in the heavens as it greets our eyes, and Thy presence as it fills our souls. Speak to our hearts this sacred hour as we humbly bow before Thee in this Thy holy place.

Search the record of our lives for any wayward thoughts or low desires that may secretly be controlling our aims. Enable us to confess before Thee our unworthiness and grant us the joy of reconciliation with Thee.

We are grateful for the blessings that crown our existence; the gift of life, the call to service, the fellowship of kindred souls, and the imperishable ideals that ever guide us and beckon us forward on the way Thou hast set before us.

Bless all the interests that bind us together in a common cause and keep us in a common allegiance to Thy holy will; sanctify our homes, reward our labors, strengthen our friendships, and so guide our destinies that we shall all arrive at Thy house, and dwell with Thee forever.

Hear us and bless us and grant us the joy of our salvation, we ask in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

ROBERT ELLIOTT BROWN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Oakland, Calif.

GOD'S PATIENCE AND HELP

O LORD, our God! We wonder at Thy patience with us and at the mercies with which thou hast blessed us each day. Thou dost remember us when we are unmindful of Thee. We thank Thee that Thou hast thoughts of good and not of evil toward us. Thou hast revealed Thy love through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. May our hearts be filled with love toward Thee, and may we carry into all the duties and the distractions of the day the thought of Thy presence. Forgive us for our carelessness with Thy claims upon us and make us more eager to please Thee. Save us from all that is base and selfish. Give us a tender, compassionate spirit toward all who may need our help. Put within us the Holy Spirit in order that our lives may become Christ-like. Grant us the privilege of being used in bringing others into contact with Thy saving power. We ask it in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

I. F. BERGSTRESSER
PASTOR CALVARY EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Mohnton, Pa.

SURRENDER AND STRENGTH

THOU hast been gracious to us, our Heavenly Father, and we thank Thee. The path before us leads into the dark; go with us and keep us. Cleanse us from the guilt of sin and save us from its power. Keep us pure, not for ourselves alone, but that we may help the sinful. Make us strong, too, that we may help the weak. Keep us humble, that any good in us may lead men to glorify Thee. Help us to a complete surrender of our hearts and lives to Thee, that Thy power may flow through us to a needy world. Help us to follow the Master, that we may come to where he is and be with him forever, for it is in his name that we pray. *Amen.*

WILLIAM E. SWEENEY
TABERNACLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Columbus, Ind.

HIGH ADVENTURE

OUR Father, who art our Life and our Light, we, Thy children, desiring truth, seek after Thee. Lend us light that we may find the truth as it is in Jesus. Give us the spirit of high adventure that, faltering not before the unknown, we may, in confidence, press on—until we find that Thou art at the heart of things.

We thank Thee for the task which is our very own, and for the opportunity it gives and the responsibility it gives and the responsibility it entails. Give us a consecrated purpose to address ourselves each to his God-given mission. Help us to do "all things well."

Open our eyes to see the world's needs. Sensitize our hearts to sympathize with others. Make strong our purpose to do Thy will in our lives.

Give Thy power, that we may become mighty for Thee. In Jesus' name. *Amen.*

ROSS MILLER
WITTENBERG COLLEGE
Springfield, Ohio

CALL AND RESPONSE

OUR precious Saviour, we thank Thee for the gift of Thyself. We praise Thee for the countless opportunities to serve in Thy name. Make us responsive to Thy call; eager to do Thy will, whatever the cost. Discipline us that we may become strong and courageous, tender-hearted and forgiving, compassionate and sacrificial. Help us wholly to abandon ourselves to Thee. Guide us in all life's plans and purposes. Increase, dear Lord, our faith. We would not be faint-hearted, but ever pressing on to advance Thy cause throughout the world. Use us to bear fruit for Thee. May we realize the value of time and the need of doing to-day what Thou hast for us to do. May every talent which Thou hast given us be wisely invested so as to hasten the coming of Thy kingdom. We ask it all in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

W. MARSHALL CRAIG
GASTON AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
Dallas, Tex.

THE LOVE THAT URGES

OUR Heavenly Father, we come to Thee drawn by Thy love which Thou hast lavished upon us. Every moment we are the recipients of Thy grace. From the beginning our pathway has been bestrewn by Thy favors. Thy blessings are as the sands of the sea. They cannot be numbered. Thou hast dignified us by calling us sons and daughters of the Most High. Thy love, so beautiful and mighty, draws us to Thee. And we trust that we come to praise Thee out of pure affection for Thee. It is enough to know that Thou dost love us. And, dear Lord, we offer to Thee our love. We have seen Thee in Thy Son and caught glimpses of Thine infinite love in the cross of Christ.

But when we behold Thy purity, Thy matchless love, we shrink from Thee, for how can sinful men approach the One altogether holy? How can we, sin-stained souls, bring an offering to the Perfect One?

Dear Lord, we come to Thee, hesitant, because we are offending children; but confident, too, because we know of Thy forgiving love.

We come to Thee drawn by Thy love and compelled by our own love. Do we presume upon Thee when we bring to Thee our desires as well as our love? Does not love ask of love?

We, as Thy children of all time, have learned that "they that wait upon Jehovah shall renew their strength." We would wait and have renewal of strength, for our lives are depleted. We are weak. The world is too much with us. Its many cries sound constantly in our ears. We would wait upon Thee, so that Thy voice may become regnant in our distraught lives.

Come to us, Thou strength Divine. Cast out of us all pettishness, littleness, and bitterness; gird us for every noble battle; give us power to overcome temptation; inspirit us with unflagging enthusiasm for good causes; do not allow us to grow faint; make us to have the gentleness and the power of fair-mindedness; lift us by far vision; inspire us with discontent over wrongs; come to us, Divine Strength, Divine Love, and plead in us and through us for the brotherhood of man, in which no child of Thine shall be neglected and unloved.

Come to us, Thou Divine Strength, and help us to know the daily companionship of Christ, our Friend and Saviour; give to us his poise, his trust, his courage to face the world and the future.

Dear Lord, we are profoundly glad that we never wait on Thee in vain. Thou dost come to us with full measure, without stint. O precious secret, thou wilt compel us to make waiting on the Lord the rule and habit of our lives; and in waiting we shall find that Thou, O God, art first at the tryst; there to give us Thy love, Thy strength, Thy self. *Amen.*

GEORGE A. CAMPBELL
UNION AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
St. Louis, Mo.

RELIANCE

O GOD, our Father, we praise Thee for Thy goodness and tender mercy. We ask Thee to be near us in our daily tasks and help us. We thank Thee for the privilege of serving. May Thy hand uphold us as we carry the burning torch to those in darkness! Make us stronger to overcome temptations and sorrows. Bring us closer to Thee because of our trials. Use us for the advancement of Thy kingdom. *Amen.*

ELIZABETH G. ALT
PRESIDENT BALTIMORE EPWORTH LEAGUE UNION
Baltimore, Md.

THE BODILY TEMPLE

O LORD God, Creator of my body and soul in the divine image; who hast bestowed upon me desire, will, reason, conscience, and the ability to hear Thy voice; I thank Thee for the sacred greatness and the holy beauty of life. By Thy grace, help me to revere, honor, and keep free from sin the body, which is the temple of the Holy Ghost; and let not evil passions invade and defile the chambers of my soul. Now, when I am in the morning of my day, with the dew of youth and enthusiasm upon my brow, help me so to live that I shall not wound myself by any sin that would weaken me and incapacitate me for the battle of to-morrow with its high responsibility and its great opportunities. By Thy Holy Spirit, lead me safely through the trials, labors, and temptations of this present world; and then, when my race here is run, receive me into paradise. And this I ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who on the cross shed for me his most precious blood. *Amen.*

CLARENCE E. MACARTNEY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pittsburgh, Pa.

STEWARDS OF THE TRUTH

ALMIGHTY God, who hast called us into the fellowship of Thy Church, enriching our hearts by its worship, its sacraments, and all its means of grace, we humbly believe that Thou hast also appointed us to be stewards of its mysteries and ministers of its truth. Enable us by Thy grace that we may yield Thee some more worthy return for all Thy pains and perpetual goodness toward us. Subdue our minds into reverence that we may be prepared to know Thy truth. Lift us into pureness of spirit and unite our hearts to obey Thy will. May our fellowship with Thee be so real that we may be made sharers of Thy strong patience and almoners of Thy kindness in the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

TREVOR H. DAVIES
TIMOTHY GATON MEMORIAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Toronto, Canada

YOUTH AND THE KINGDOM

O GRACIOUS Master and Saviour, who art mindful of all mankind and dost regard even sparrows that fall, we know that Thou art interested in youth, not only because of what youth has been and is to Thee, for what youth has accomplished and is accomplishing, but also for what youth is capable of meaning in Thy kingdom. May we realize as young people that Thy kingdom is within us and that we are part of Thy kingdom! Save us from shallowness of thinking and slackness of living. Help us to be strong and use all our strength for Thee. *Amen.*

HARVEY C. PORTER
PRESIDENT WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE
EPWORTH LEAGUE
Louisa, Ky.

CHRIST IN MYSELF

HEAVENLY Father, I call Thee Father because I have the witness in my heart that I am Thy child, and because Jesus Christ, Thy Son, is my Elder Brother. He chose me first, and then I chose him. Already he has done more for me than any of my earthly loved ones. When I first saw Jesus through the eyes of faith I then for the first time saw myself as a poor, needy, and helpless sinner. Then it was I cried, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and the answer came, and there was born into my heart a great joy and a wonderful peace. Jesus showed me what I was and what I could be with his help. I now realize that a marvelous change has been wrought in me because I find myself wishing to be like Jesus.

Loving Father, I therefore offer unto Thee my heart's deepest gratitude for sending Jesus into my life. Through him I would thank Thee for all that has been done for me and in me. And I am made bold to ask that Thou wilt work through me and let me be a channel through which there shall flow an unobstructed stream of Thy grace to bless the people all around me. Help me to keep the channel clear, and as the stream of Thy goodness flows into me and through me I know that the trees of Thy planting in my life shall bring forth not only leaves, but also fruitage, for Thy glory. *Amen.*

POWHATAN W. JAMES
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Nashville, Tenn.

THE GOOD PATH

O GOD, to Thee we come! We are the sheep of Thy pasture, the children of Thy loving care. All our days are filled with sunshine and our paths are marked with progress when we can feel Thee near. May we therefore be granted the benedictions of Thy nearness and Thy care on our journey of life. Help us to walk in paths of righteousness that our generation may feel the impulse of our living. Guard our deeds that others may see good works performed by our hands and glorify Thee, our Heavenly Father. Establish us, not boastfully, but with humility of heart, as lights of Thy grace and truth in the world that Christ may be reflected to others who live in the dark places of the earth. Keep us in oneness of purpose with Thee, our Father, with Christ, our Saviour, and with the Holy Spirit, our Guide. *Amen.*

DAVID T. GREGORY
CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
Dayton, Ohio

THE APPEAL OF NEED

GRACIOUS Lord, in our great need we come to Thee. Bestow Thou upon us those gifts of body, mind, and spirit which will make us of the greatest service to Thee and to our fellow men. Grant us sensitiveness of conscience, warmth of heart, gentleness of manner, purity of motive, strength of will. Into the homes in which Thou hast placed us, into the daily duties which Thou hast assigned us, into the social relationships which Thou hast established for us, may we bring loyalty to the highest ideals, courage in the presence of temptation, patience under provocation, willingness to sacrifice for the common good, obedience to all laws which have as their purpose the common weal. Forgive Thou us our sins. Cleanse Thou us from secret faults and be Thou the Lord of our all. In the name of Jesus, our Saviour and Master. *Amen.*

LEWIS SEYMOUR MUDGE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN U. S. A.
Philadelphia, Pa.

THE GATES OF LIGHT

OUR Father, we come to Thee in the morning of our days with joyous gratitude for opening the gates of life to us and for the abundance with which Thou dost fill all the house of life for us. We thank Thee for the spaciousness and beauty of the holy temple into which Thou wouldst lead us, and for the light that is there, and for the security and opportunity Thou dost afford us in Thine appointed place. We know Thou hast planned all this for us in love. We would do Thy will. O, wilt Thou forgive us that ever we were prone to walk in our ways and to follow the desires of our own eyes! For Thou art our wisdom and satisfaction and fulfillment, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. *Amen.*

J. M. DAWSON
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Waco, Tex.

GOD'S GOODNESS AND OUR SERVICE

OUR Gracious Heavenly Father, we come to Thee with thankfulness for Thy great goodness, for the glory of the day, for the calm stillness of night. For youth with its enthusiasm and its energies we give Thee thanks.

Grant, O God, that as we approach the noontime of our lives we may learn to serve by the giving of ourselves, that at life's sundown Thy peace may be our own. We ask it in Thy name. *Amen.*

GORDON B. KOCH
RRESIDENT SOUTHWEST MISSOURI CONFERENCE EPWORTH LEAGUE
Kansas City, Mo.

THE LESSON OF THE WORD

HEAVENLY Father, I would speak a word to Thee: My love. Thy words to me are wonderful. My word to Thee is small. It is my all. I would be a loving child. Father, my religion is to love Thee. Open for me the way I am to go. Make plain my path. Lead me into it. Guide me daily on. May light from Thy throne fall on my path, and make it bright. When shadows fall, help me to walk bravely on. Help me to live the right life that I may have a clear vision of the truth. May I heed Thy precepts that I may know Thy loving-kindness. May my will be Thine that I may know the truth to be divine. May my chief employ be to walk with Thee and talk with Thee, and get the testimony of Thy pleasure in me. Father, this is all, but this is everything. This is what my Elder Brother has taught me. I love the lesson. Help me to live it for his sake. *Amen.*

GEORGE L. PETRIE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S.
Charlottesville, Va.

A YOUNG CHRISTIAN'S PRAYER

BLESSED Jesus, the only wise God our Saviour, we acknowledge Thee as the fountain of all wisdom, the life and light of those who put their trust in Thee. Thy bountiful hand has ever been open toward us. We are the recipients of blessings both physical and spiritual. Thy beneficent goodness fills our hearts with unbounded gratitude. Forgive us wherein we have fallen short of thy glory and help us to walk worthy of the name we bear. Illumine our minds and purify our hearts that we may early know and do thy will. Open our eyes that we may see the truth and be free from the evils and superstitions of men who would drag us down. Give us a heart of love and charity that we may be kind to all who are less fortunate than we are. Bless those who sit in darkness, and may the sunlight of Thine own presence shine in upon them, making the darkest spot on earth even more bright and beautiful than the land in which we live. Inspire us with a holy zeal to serve Thee in every field of opportunity. Hasten the coming of thy kingdom among men and give us the hope of victory over sin and death. Keep us by thy grace until we shall be called to our reward, when Thy name shall receive endless praise. *Amen.*

A. R. CLIPPINGER
BISHOP, CHURCH OF UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
Dayton, Ohio

LIFE, PURPOSE, AND PLAN

FATHER, we thank Thee for life, its past, its present, and its future.

We thank Thee for memories of days gone by: for Thy protection in the days of our infancy, for the care of loving parents, and for the influence of godly teachers, pastors, and friends.

We thank Thee for present opportunities. Help us to see the divine purpose for our lives and to fit in with Thy plan. Make our hearts responsible to the needs of our communities and inspire us to give ourselves in service to others.

We thank Thee for future possibilities. Give us the vision to see Thy kingdom, in all its splendor, established in the hearts of men everywhere; and give us the yearning to bring this to pass, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

R. W. VANDERBERRY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, VIRGINIA CONFERENCE
EPWORTH LEAGUE
Richmond, Va.

COMRADES OF CHRIST

OUR Heavenly Father, may we now be led to ask of Thee that which we most need. Do Thou keep from our lips the prayer of selfish desires. Give us at this moment a real sense of Thy presence in all our hearts. We seek to serve Thee. Bless our willingness and in our weakness let Thy power be made manifest. Fill our hearts with joys that earthly things cannot give nor take away. May we have courage squarely to meet the moral issues that daily test our devotion to Thee. Teach us ever to walk with one another as comrades of Christ. May Thy grace soften every word we speak. May kindness warm our hearts toward all men. Keep us by Thy Spirit from sin. Let us serve Thee better, and may our love grow more steadfast as the years go by. All these things we ask in Christ's name. *Amen.*

WILLIAM CHALMERS COVERT
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN U. S. A.
Philadelphia, Pa.

RICH HUMAN CAPACITIES

GOD, our Heavenly Father, measuring carefully our words and casting away all insincerity, we offer Thee thanksgiving for the gift of life itself, with all its vigor, its outlook, its prospect. We marvel, though in becoming humility, over our natural capacities and our acquired powers. Such endowments and such achievements are all because of Thy goodness and grace.

Help us clearly to perceive that to receive and to have imposes the obligation to give and to share. Help us to measure our responsibilities with our privileges. Enable us not only to see and sympathize with human need all about us, but in the strength of a deep consecration to meet and alleviate it. May we spend and be spent in the service of others! In Jesus's name. *Amen.*

A. E. HANGEN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR, THE EVANGELICAL MESSENGER
Cleveland, Ohio

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL GOD, who at all times hast shown Thy singular favor and goodness unto them that fear Thee and who by Thy Blessed Son hast declared that all sins shall be forgiven unto the children of men upon their true repentance, hear now, we beseech Thee, our prayer of confession. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever and Thy compassions fail not. In Thine infinite Love enter not into judgment with Thy servants, but be Thou merciful unto us and wash away all our sins with that precious blood which our Saviour shed for us. Look not, O Lord, on the multitude of our iniquities, but remember the covenant that Thou didst make with our fathers and ratified in Thy Son Jesus Christ, that by the virtue thereof we may assure ourselves of Thine eternal salvation and with the angels may glorify and praise Thee forever and ever. *Amen.*

GEORGE D. KILPATRICK
CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH
Ottawa, Canada

THE COMMON ROUND

O THOU ever-gracious God, we praise Thee for the ministry of everyday life, for the glory of the commonplace in Thy world. Sanctify with Thy presence, O Living Christ, our bodies and our souls, our words and our intentions, that all our being may reflect Thy goodness. Make virtues out of our necessities. May our deeds become manifestations of Thy grace.

Let our bodies become the servants of our souls and our souls servants of Thy Holy Spirit. Quicken our lives in Thee that the vision of a world need may widen. Deliver us from narrowness of soul, from the death-hand of selfishness, from the dust of spiritual pride.

Deliver us from seeking the praise of men. May we aspire to the crown only that we may crown Thee Lord of all.

Impel us by Thy Spirit to make heaven below that we may be fitted for heaven above. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

A. A. LITTLE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Meridian, Miss.

PRAYER FOR APPROVAL

AS we face the tasks of this day, O God, we feel our utter helplessness to meet them; and we approach Thy throne to implore Thy help. We do not come as cowering slaves whipped into submission, but we come as children supplicating a sympathetic Father. Give us, we pray, a proper understanding of the importance of them, and help us to have a deep consciousness of Thy presence with us as we undertake them. Show us unmistakably what is the right, and give us courage to follow it, fearing none but Thee. May the motives that prompt our services be pure, and the spirit in which they are done be heavenly, and the faithfulness with which they are performed be worthy of Thine approval. May we, and what we are able to do in Thy name, be acceptable unto Thee. We humbly ask it in the name of our blessed Lord. *Amen.*

W. W. MELTON
SEVENTH AND JAMES STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
Waco, Tex.

FOR THE MASTER'S USE

GOD our Father, we come to Thee in prayer through the merits of our Saviour. Thy glory is excellent; Thy mercy is unending. May we joy to serve Thee because of all Thou hast done for us through Jesus.

Give to us "the mind which was in Christ." Incline our hearts to yield all to Thy blessed control. Cleanse us and make us vessels "meet for the Master's use." Free us from all doubts which arise from pride of intellect or pride of will. Make us ready to hear Thy voice as did little Samuel of old. Open our eyes to see Thy truth and grace. Cast out every unworthy aim from our souls.

Lord, pardon all our sins; lead and empower us by Thy Holy Spirit; make us and all for whom we pray valiant soldiers for Christ. In His dear name we ask it. *Amen.*

J. ALVIN ORR
FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa.

GRATITUDE FOR A GLORIOUS HERITAGE

OUR Father, Giver of every good gift, we come asking Thee to teach us, the youth of to-day, to be grateful. We are glad to be young—with the vigor, enthusiasm, and interest to enjoy all that this wonderful age has given us. Let us, however, be ever mindful that these things we are privileged to enjoy were made possible by the toil, privations, and sacrifices of those who have gone on before. Help us, to-day's youth, O Lord, to live such lives as will justify those sacrifices of yesterday and to give glad thanks for a glorious heritage. *Amen.*

J. W. RUSTIN
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
Salisbury, Md.

DEPENDENCE AND SYMPATHY

ALMIGHTY God, our Father and Saviour, to whom we are indebted for all things we have received and on whom we depend for all that are to come, make us thankful for Thy mercy. May we be quick to respond to Thy kindness by lives which please Thee and which do good to our fellow men. Enable us to shirk no duty, to waver before no temptation. Make us ready to face difficulties with brave hearts made strong by Thy Spirit. Do not permit us to forget those who have a hard time in life. May we feel their troubles as we feel our own, and work to relieve them. Give to us the mind of Jesus as to what we should live for and stand for. We ask in Jesus's name. *Amen.*

HENRY CHAPMAN SWEARINGEN
HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
St. Paul, Minn.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. *Amen.*

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

WE thank Thee, our Father, for the dawn of the New Year. Teach us to understand that in Thee all things are agelessly new. Help us to match our youth with Thy newness and Thy trueness. We would realize that youth comes but once—only once in our journey through the years. Help us so to think and act, therefore, that our youth-time shall be thickly sown with seeds of Christliness. Enable us to become strong through the discipline of service and self-control. Make us unafraid of hardship. School us to heroism in daily living. Teach us to transmute the red fires of passion into the white flame of love—love for Thee and love for Man. Make us high-minded citizens. Grant unto us vision to behold the deepening wonder of Thy universe. In things little and large, may we cultivate the inner eye which feasts upon the beauty of God, becoming in ourselves shrines of spiritual loveliness and strength. For Christ's sake. *Amen.*

FREDERICK F. SHANNON
PASTOR OF CENTRAL CHURCH
Chicago, Ill.

THE NEW YEAR

LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. We live and move and have our being in Thee. To Thee we owe the mercies of the years that are gone. In Thee is our hope for the years that are to come. Our times and lives are thine and are in thy hands. In thy hands we wish them always to be. And in thy hands we wish them henceforth fully to be. We do not know what this New Year may bring to us. We cannot see our way as we enter it. But Thou canst see the end from the beginning, and we can walk with Thee. Unto Thy guidance we commit our lives for every day of this year. We soberly resolve so to number our days that we shall daily apply our hearts unto wisdom. In this purpose to live with Thee, to live for Thee and to live according to Thy good will in all our lives and relations we reverently and earnestly ask Thy daily presence and sufficient grace. In Jesus's name. *Amen.*

WILLIAM FRASER MCDOWELL
BISHOP, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Washington, D. C.

A PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

ALMIGHTY Father, Who in Thy patience didst accept the sacrifices of men as a preparation for faith in the one offering of Jesus, we pray that this day may be a day of recollection of his passion and of Thy redeeming love. May the grace of the cross empower us to offer our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, a spiritual service. May the great Sufferer's prayer for those who crucified him prevail this day on behalf of all who reject him and thus crucify him anew; for all whose lives contradict goodness and truth; for every prodigal who wanders from his Father's house. May the power of the cross be manifest in burdened and suffering lives. May persons who are anxious and distressed on behalf of those whom they love know Jesus in the fellowship of his sufferings and in the power of his resurrection. May the cry of the wronged and the depressed rise into harmony with Jesus's words of resignation and trust. We would come to the cross this day to do Thy will, O God, as he came, joyous in tribulation through our conquering Christ. *Amen.*

FITZGERALD S. PARKER
EDITOR AND SECRETARY, EPWORTH LEAGUE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Nashville, Tenn.

A PRAYER FOR EASTER

ALMIGHTY God, we bless Thee for life and for all the things by which we live; for the beautiful, the true, and the good; for faith and hope and love; for the revelation of Thy Fatherhood; for the light in the fair face of Jesus Christ; for his gracious words; for his track-marks as he went about doing good; for his resurrection and ascension; for the assurance of immortality; for the experience of eternal life, here and now; for the promise of communion with Thee and the spirits of the just in the Land of Day and Song.

Teach us Thy will. May we please Thee in all we do. Vouchsafe Thy presence and grace until we come to that Sweet and Blessed Country. *Amen.*

CHARLES D. BULLA
ASSOCIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL EDITOR
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Nashville, Tenn.

EASTER MORNING

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this glorious Easter morning when all nature speaks of Thy life-giving power and Thy Word tells us of the power of the resurrection morning. Somehow on this beautiful spring day, when everywhere there are the evidences of new life springing from the dead of winter, it is easy for us to believe in the resurrection of Jesus and easier for us to entertain the hope of our own immortality.

We thank thee for the sense of our own oneness with recreated nature and the resurrected Christ. Grant that this hope may beget within us a new faith in the invincible power of goodness, gentleness, and love and a new desire for the things that make for the abundant life that Jesus came to reveal.

We pray that on this Easter morning we may rise from our dead selves into newness of a life loyal to Jesus Christ, of service to our fellow men, and of glad obedience to Thee our Father who hast put an end to death and brought life and immortality to light through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

W. E. J. GRATZ
EDITOR EPWORTH HERALD
Chicago, Ill.

PRAISE FOR OUR MOTHERS

OUR Father, we bring to Thee this day our grateful praise for our mothers and for what thou hast given us through their love. In them we have seen much to remind us of Thee. By their ceaseless affection and self-forgetting ministries they have made Thine own love seem more real and more compassionate.

May the memory of their influence be our strong defense in temptation, and may we rest, as they have rested, on Thy sure word of truth.

Forgive our too easy willingness to accept the sacrifices our mothers have made in our behalf. Help us to cherish them tenderly while yet they live with us, and when Thou dost call them home may we be the more drawn to follow whither their lives and prayers have led.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord, who from his cross gave loving thought to his own mother. *Amen.*

DAN B. BRUMMITT
EDITOR NORTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE
Chicago, Ill.

A PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

OUR Heavenly Father, our prayer to-day is one of thanksgiving for the dearest of all Thy biessings and gifts to us—for the dear mothers whose love, of all human loves, is most like Thine own divine love.

We pray that whatever our mothers may need in body, mind, and spirit to enable them to perform faithfully their sweet and loving duties to their children may be given to them; and hasten Thou the day when all the children of earth shall have the blessing of true Christian mothers.

For the beauty and fragrance of the red and white roses that bloom in our gardens we thank Thee, but infinitely more do we thank thee for those dear ones whose moral beauty and purity are symbolized in these sweet flowers, which we wear as emblems of love and remembrance to-day.

Nor do we forget to remember in this our prayer our fathers and brothers and sisters, and to beseech Thee to help us all so to live that our family circles shall at the last be complete in heaven, and that we may find where God and our loved ones are our happy and eternal home.

These and all our blessings we a skin Jesus's name. *Amen.*

WILBUR F. TILLETT
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Nashville, Tenn.

A FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

OUR Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for those who have taught us the meaning of father. Father's arm is the arm of protection, his hand the hand of bounty, his will the guide of our developing lives. That our father's home preserved us from the indiscretions of childhood and the follies of youth is due to Thy revelation and providence.

As a blessing on our fathers we seek Thy help to the end that we may honor them as Jesus honored thee; that we may carry on the good works which enlisted their service; that we may have fellowship with them and we may have fellowship with Thee, and with Thy Son, Jesus Christ; that through Thy good providence we may all come at last to the Father's house of many mansions. *Amen.*

MARVIN T. HAW
PASTOR CENTRAL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Kansas, City, Mo.

GRATEFUL FOR OUR FATHERS

INFINITE and Eternal God, faithless and indifferent have we been, but we come with a child's confidence and expectancy. We come to a Father's heart for forgiveness, to a Father's mind for instruction, to a Father's will for guidance, to a Father's strength for protection.

We are thinking of our fathers who provided homes in which it was good to be reared. Some of us associate our father with an open Bible and a voice of earnest prayer. Never was he too wearied to do for us a kindness without thought of gratitude. From him we might go afar in space, but he was ever close in love. Seeing Thou gavest us such fathers, how much nobler should we be! We measure ourselves by the teaching of Thy book—a wise man maketh a glad father, but the father of a fool hath no joy. It grieves us that we evidenced so little the affection of which we had more than we acknowledged. For some of us that opportunity has passed, but we have abiding memories which allure us to complete again the family circle in Thy heavenly home.

Some of us are beginning homes into which have come or will come children. We shall know gladness in their glee and be moved to purity by their innocence. To be sincere in our prayer that they be devout and upright, we must put away our faults and deficiencies. If we become more like Jesus, our children will be less likely to be beguiled by illusion and more likely to seek reality, to delight in nature, to sympathize with people, to strive for right, to keep their faith in God. For all this we pray in the name of our Saviour Christ.

JOHN W. LANGDALE
BOOK EDITOR, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
New York, N. Y.

THE NATIONAL WELFARE

ALMIGHTY God, Thou who art our refuge and our fortress, a very present help in time of trouble, we praise Thee for goodness upon goodness higher than the mountains; for blessing following blessing, like the waves upon the shore.

We thank Thee for our country. We bless Thee for all her hallowed privileges and freedom. We praise Thee for all her men and women who have consecrated their strength to her highest good and who have helped to usher in the brighter day in which we live. Thou who didst lead Israel of old with Thy pillar of flame and Thy ensign of cloud, lead Thou our own Israel, the many-tongued but one-hearted people of the United States.

God bless the President of our nation, the Governor of our State, the Mayor of our city, and all who share the responsibilities and cares of government. We pray Thee for all who, by the confidence of their fellow men, have been called to the stewardship of national, state, or civic affairs. Grant that they may hold sacred the trust that has been reposed in them. Strengthen their sense of duty. Give them faith and daring to do right though the heavens fall. Set their hearts on fire with high resolve to engage in a holy and unceasing warfare for the freedom and welfare of the people.

Forgive, O most merciful God, that which Thou dost see amiss in us. And let us cease not to trust in the Father-God who never slumbers nor sleeps and who watches over all. Hear us in heaven, Thy dwelling-place, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HENRY ALFORD PORTER
THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH
St. Louis, Mo.

PRAYER OF PATRIOTISM—JULY FOURTH

ETERNAL Father of mankind, Guardian and Guide of the destinies of our nation, we bless Thy holy name for men of old who were brave to withstand injustice and who thus founded our nation in the fear of God, and in the name of human freedom.

As we lift our eyes upward to the stars and stripes floating in the sunlight and as they thus lead our vision to look beyond to the eternal hills and to Thy firmament on high, may we ever dedicate ourselves and consecrate our children and our children's children to live in loyalty beneath it so long as the nation shall endure in freedom, in unity under law, in obedience to the constitution of the nation and of the God of nations, in the divine order of a world in whose redemption our country shall ever bear an honorable and unselfish part. *Amen.*

CHARLES S. MACFARLAND
GENERAL SECRETARY, FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
New York, N. Y.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

OUR Father, we would first give Thee the penitence of a broken and contrite spirit. We have lived unworthily of thy goodness and gifts, forgetting that the grossest of all sins is our ingratitude.

We thank Thee for thy mercies toward us as a people, for the measure of plenty and peace and progress which have been ours, and above all for Thy love which pursues us and preserves us.

We thank Thee, O God, for all the valiant warriors for righteousness who are pressing the battle to victory against the fierce fiends and forces of darkness. We thank Thee for the wealth of innocent children whose feet may be directed into the pathway which leads to a better day. We thank Thee for our individual faith and hope and love, for our rich heritage, for the remembrance of sweet faces whose smiles gave radiance to our lives in the vanished years. We thank Thee for these loving hearts who enriched our spirits by their love and whose love shall always live. May our hearts that are pitched to the keynote of gratitude on this day be increasingly grateful through all the days of all the years unto that glad day when we shall know Thee as Thou art and praise Thee as we ought.

These blessings we pray for in the name of Him who loved us and gave himself for us. *Amen.*

WILLIAM P. KING
BOOK EDITOR, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Nashville, Tenn.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALMIGHTY God, our most gracious Heavenly Father, Thou art also the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Maker of all things, and the Judge of all men. Thou hast prepared Thy throne in the heavens, and Thy kingdom ruleth over all. Even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.

It is therefore very meet, right, and our bounden duty, at all times and in all places, to give thanks unto Thee. Thou hast made us for Thyself, and in Thy service is perfect freedom. Surely Thy mercies and Thy ministries no man can number.

We have come up to-day from all parts of the world to render the sacrifice of thanksgiving for Thy great goodness to all the sons of men. Our hearts overflow with gratitude and our lips show forth Thy praise.

We pray Thee that Thou wilt continue to defend and guide the Great Republic, and that through Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, all the nations of the earth may be blessed.

We beseech Thee to hear us in this our prayer which we make in the great Redeemer's name. *Amen.*

HOYT M. DOBBS
BISHOP, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Birmingham, Ala.

THANKSGIVING DAY

WE are reminded, our Father, by the return of Thanksgiving day, that every good gift comes from Thee. Give us to-day the feeling of dependence which Thy children should have, and with it the free, joyous spirit of childhood. Help us to realize that we do not grow a grain of wheat nor breathe a breath of air aside from Thee, for Thou hast made it all possible. Save us from the hardness of self-sufficiency as we gradually master the world about us, and ever increase in us the capacity for awe and gratitude.

We are grateful for our country, and for those chapters in her history which this day recalls. We are glad it was founded in a passion for freedom and human rights. Save us, O God, from the dangers of our prosperity; from conceit, and hardness, and lust for power. Show us how the ideals of Jesus may be made the measure of our national greatness, and help us in humility and in faith to make our contribution to the coming of Thy kingdom among the people of the earth. *Amen.*

W. A. SMART
CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Atlanta, Ga.

CHRISTMAS

FATHER of mercies, Thou Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we adore thee for Thy great glory and give thanks to Thee for Thy abounding goodness.

On this day, when we celebrate the birth of thy Son and our Saviour, we rejoice in this unspeakable gift of Thy love, the giving to us the Babe of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace.

Grant us Thy grace on this Christmas day that with the angels we may give glory to God in the highest and show forth His good will to men.

May we welcome Jesus to our hearts, and may all selfishness be cast out by his coming into our souls.

Let his peace that passeth all understanding rest upon our home and all homes this joyous day.

May his light disperse the darkness of our sin-smitten world and his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

Under his divine leadership and saving grace may peace be brought to all mankind and wars cease forever to the ends of the earth.

In the name and for the sake of this same Jesus Christ our Lord we offer all our prayers. *Amen.*

WARREN A. CANDLER
BISHOP, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
Atlanta, Ga.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OUR Father God, who didst so love the world as to send Thine only begotten Son to save us from our sins, we rejoice before Thee in the memories and inspirations of Christmas. We thank Thee for this holy day, with its gladness and melody, its wholesome conspiracies of kindness, its contagion of good cheer, its summons to give and to forgive. Help us to remember that there was "no room in the inn" for the Christ Child, that we may not share the ancient guilt, but may make ever larger room in our hearts for the Lord Jesus, who went about doing good, and who continues to lead his true followers into every ministry of helpfulness. Yea, in every service to mankind may we feel the loving heart-throbs of Him who was born a babe in Bethlehem's manger; in every agency of mercy, of sympathy, of friendship, may we feel that the heart and hands of Jesus are busy still; and may it be our high privilege to help in creating the radiant Christmas music, which is the merry laughter of little children who are dear to our living, loving Lord. And so may we help to spread through all the earth the wondrous Christmas Light, especially among those little ones who are in the darkness of heartache and hunger and neglect. We ask it in Jesus's name. *Amen.*

PAUL SEIBERT LEINBACH
EDITOR OF REFORMED CHRISTIAN MESSENGER AND
PRESIDENT OF EDITORIAL COUNCIL OF
RELIGIOUS PRESS OF AMERICA
Philadelphia, Pa.

AT THE END OF THE YEAR

DEAR Heavenly Father, in a few hours this good year will be past forever, and now I am so glad I can tell the truth and say that I do not remember one day that Thou didst not speak to me in Thy word, and I do not remember one meal I ate without prayer, and I do not remember the night I did not pray the prayer my mother taught me:

"A little house is my heart—
Jesus, live in every part.
In Thy name I fall asleep—
Lord, do Thou my dwelling keep."

O Father, how we have walked together and talked together! We have been in heaven on earth. What a home that must be, O Jesus, which Thou hast prepared for us! *Amen.*

S. P. LONG
WICKER PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
Chicago, Ill.

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